

Ultimate Kenya with Pangolin 2019



Introduction

Following on from our inaugural trip to see the Migration in The Mara Toby and Guts spent the following week visiting several lodges and conservancies to put together the ultimate multi-destination itinerary that showcases the best of The Mara and magical Samburu in Northern Kenya. This trip will happen in 2019 and is to be hosted by Guts, Janine Kraye, Charl and Sabine and Andreas Knausenberger (our Mara specialist), with two departures.



2019 Dates

29th Aug – 7th September 2019

8th Sept to the 17th Sept 2019

Itinerary

After traveling throughout the region in 2016 we believe that we have created a safari using three unique destinations to make the most of the photo opportunities that this amazing country has to offer.

Day 1:

The group will meet up at our hotel in Nairobi for a first night dinner and a chance to meet your hosts and fellow travelers. The hotel that we use has been chosen is for its position between the international airport where you will arrive and the domestic terminal of Wilson Airport which you depart to the Masai Mara from the following morning.

Day 2 – 7: Mara Bush Camp

We head to Wilson airport early in the morning to board our private chartered flight to the Masai Mara. We have made the decision to charter all of our flights to maximise the time that we have and also to allow for extra baggage and camera gear for the group.

The flight takes approximately one hour and then we will land at OI Okiombo airstrip where we will be met by our team of drivers and guides in the customised Pangolin game viewers. We have three vehicles with a maximum of four guests plus one guide in each. The photo hosts will rotate through the vehicles during the safari giving you a chance to learn and receive photo advise from each of them throughout the trip.

Our first five nights will be spent at Mara Bush Camp. Chosen for its location we will spend plenty of time out in the Masai Mara National Reserve photographing in the areas surrounding the camp. The location is ideal for getting to the wildebeest crossings for which the Mara is so famous. During our time at Mara Bush Camp you will also have the opportunity to photograph from the air in our private chartered helicopter. This was a real highlight on previous trips with some startling aerial images being taken from the one hour allocated to each person on the trip. Each one hour flight will be for two clients and one of our photo guides who will be seated behind you.



This first part of the trip will involve full day game drives which will prove very productive photographically. Lunches will be taken out in the field in between sightings.



Also included in the safari package is a hot air balloon flight along The Mara River. This form of flight is fantastic and a must-do so we have decided to include it in the itinerary for everyone on this trip. Photographing as we skip along the trees meters away from soaring vultures and other birds of prey is quite simply stunning. The control that pilots have is incredible and the Governors Balloons are the only ones that spend the majority of the flight directly over the Mara River. After we land in the Mara Triangle we are treated to a full champagne breakfast at the foot of the escarpment overlooking The Masai Mara. It's an awesome way to start the day.

Days 7 – 10: Samburu

During our days in The Mara we will have covered nearly all of the photographic hotspots and crossings and have hundreds if not thousands of brilliant images and so we will move on to a very special reserve in the north of Kenya – Samburu. Again to save time we have chartered a private plane to fly us directly from The Mara to Samburu and the flight will take just under 2 hours.



Samburu is very different to The Mara and more similar in look and feel to the thorny bushveld of Southern Africa. It's is however the unique species of animals that draws us to this place as well as the beautiful Samburu people who call the magical region home.

Upon arrival we will take the short drive to our lodge Saruni Samburu. Built by a visionary Italian, Riccardo Orizio, on top of a rocky outcrop this lodge is one of the most stunning places we have ever been to. The rooms all have spectacular views over the surrounding reserve.

The animals of the Samburu are as exotic as the reserve itself with rare species like Reticulated Giraffe, Gerenuk and Grevy's Zebra making for very unique subjects. The Samburu people who work in the reserve and lodge are the most charming, beautifully dressed and adorned people we have encountered and are more than happy to have their photos taken.

Time at Samburu will be spent photographing in the reserve, from the Saruni photo hide near the lodge and also doing more editing and post production in between. Saruni is a great way to end the trip in a more relaxed fashion.....it is a holiday after all!

Day 10

Sadly this is the end of the annual Mara and Samburu photo safari. Should you wish to extend your trip we can heartily recommend traveling onto the coast for some more R&R/editing time or perhaps even south towards The Chobe. Kenya Airways have regular flights from Nairobi to Livingstone in Zambia where you can see the mighty Victoria Falls and then transfer over to our houseboat on The Chobe River.



Although we normally don't recommend taking a flash with you on safari as it's not very pleasant for the animals it might be a good idea for when we get to Samburu and you are wanting to do some portraiture with the Samburu Warriors in all their finery.

Includes:

- Meet and Greet at Nairobi Airport
- One night at Tamarind Tree Hotel Nairobi (Dinner bed and breakfast)
- Flight to The Masai Mara
- 5 nights at Mara Bush Camp (MBC)
- All meals and soft drinks at MBC
- All game activities in private vehicles (4 clients per car)
- 1 hour helicopter flight
- 1 hot air balloon flight with champagne breakfast upon landing
- Flight to Samburu Game Reserve
- 3 nights at Saruni Samburu (full board)
- Laundry
- All game activities, bush walks, picnics etc
- Flight to Wilson Airport and transfer to Nairobi international.

Excludes:

- Gratuities and items of a personal nature
- Visa fees where applicable
- Single supplement of \$1200

From: \$10,950.00 per person sharing

Duration : 10 Days

Highlights : Masai Mara Migration, Hot air ballooning, Special Samburu

Location : Masai Mara and Samburu

Types of Photography : Wildlife, Birding, Landscape, Portraiture

Group size : Max 12

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