

Tanzania Wildlife & Birding Safari

With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures



February 4 – 16, 2020

With 7-Night Kenya Pre-tour Ext.

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“Our Tanzania journey is impeccably crafted to bring you the finest wildlife viewing possible.

Many other tours average eight to ten game drives ... ours has at least 17. Throughout the journey, you are immersed in the splendor of wildlife, both mammals and birds, and our timing is set for the peak of the great wildebeest migration. Because of this timing, we must confirm our tour early; we are there at PRIME time! East Africa is still the ultimate safari experience, hands down!”

— Peg Abbott, Owner of Naturalist Journeys

Join Naturalist Journeys’ owner Peg Abbott, and Gold-rated Guide Preston Mutinda on this Tanzania wildlife safari to see iconic animals like Elephant, Wildebeest, Common Zebra, Buffalo, Impala, Gazelle, Hartbeest, Eland, Lion, Cheetah, Leopard, Spotted Hyena, Vervet Monkey, Baboon, and so many more. Travel at peak time: Wildebeest are calving and the interactions between predator and prey are intense.

Witness the splendor of Tarangire National Park, perched on a principal migration corridor into the Serengeti. You are surrounded by wildlife, ancient boulders, and picturesque baobab and fig trees. In Lake Manyara National Park we watch for wetland-associated African birds and mammals, and learn about the area’s fascinating geology.

Travel the Serengeti and visit Oldupai Gorge, famous for the study of human evolution and one of the most significant anthropological sites in the world, as well as for its incredible wildlife, including 500 species of birds. Ngorongoro Crater’s volcanoes, mountains, plains, lakes, forests, and archaeological sites, is a highlight. Dotted with watering holes, this incredible area offers shelter to almost 30,000 individual animals.

We enjoy lodgings at comfortable safari camps that offer all the creature comforts, yet are close to the action. At Ngorongoro Crater, we descend into the Crater for wildlife viewing, and enjoy rooms with grand views on the rim.

A eight-day pre-tour Kenya extension goes to two of the country’s finest parks from Nairobi, Mount Kenya, Nakuru (the best place to see both species of rhino) and Amboseli, scenic with Mount Kilimanjaro in the background. Those on this extension cross the border from Amboseli to Arusha by vehicle, and end with a safari there in Arusha, where they meet up with those on the main safari.



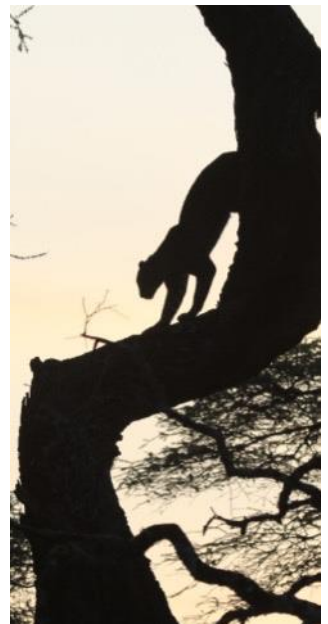
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The Serengeti and other adjacent parks and preserves we visit collectively form a vast eco-system, shared with the Maasai Mara of Kenya. With its endless plains, the Serengeti is the heart and soul of our African wilderness experience. Immerse yourself in wildlife with excellent guides while enjoying Naturalist Journeys' well known camaraderie!

Tour Highlights

- Spend three nights at Tarangire National Park, with picturesque and ancient Baobabs and many elephants
- Witness spectacular concentrations of wildlife at seasonally-shrinking watering holes; watch interactions between predator and prey
- Search for fascinating birds in the Serengeti, like Hamerkop, Saddle-billed and African Openbill Storks, Lappet-faced Vulture, and Tawny and Martial Eagles
- Find big cats and watch their behavior; in the last years we have seen all the big cats, plus in some years, Serval and Caracal
- Discover Lake Manyara National Park, home to tree climbing Lion, enormous tusked Elephant, Bushbuck, Giraffe, Zebra, Buffalo, Leopard, Impala, and more
- Visit Oldupai Gorge with a local guide, and learn about the sequence of important anthropological finds
- Opt for a sunrise hot air balloon ride over the Serengeti — wow!
- Absorb the view from the rim of Ngorongoro Crater, then venture into the crater with its teeming wildlife
- Witness the rare Black Rhino in Ngorongoro Crater, as well as many bull Elephant
- Opt for the Kenya extension — with landscapes from Mt. Kenya to the Great Rift Valley lakes and Mt. Kilimanjaro.



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Tour Summary

1 day longer this year!

13-Day / 12-Night African Safari w/ Preston Mutinda & Peg Abbott

With 8-Day / 7-Night Kenyan Pre-Tour Extension

\$9425 from Arusha

Airport is Arusha's Kilimanjaro International (JRO); Kenya ext. airport is Jomo Kenyatta International (NBO)



Itinerary

Tues., Feb. 4 Arrival in Arusha | Arumero Lodge

Welcome to Tanzania! Our tour begins in Arusha. We have selected a hotel out of the city this year, so you can immediately surround yourself with splendid views, wildlife such as Dik-diks, Vervet Monkeys and Black-and-white Colobus Monkeys, and bountiful birds, from bee-eaters to barbets, Crowned Hornbill, Brown-hooded Kingfisher and more.

You may want to come in an additional night to rest up from travels. The lodge has extensive tropical plantings and is small and personal with just 21 boutique cottages. There is a lovely swimming pool, WIFI, bar and dining facilities, and pathways. Whenever you chose to arrive, this is a restful location to welcome you.

Both early arrivals and those coming in on the tour start date are met and transferred on arrival to the hotel. Accommodations at the [Arumero River Lodge](#) (D)

Wed., Feb. 5 – Fri., Feb. 7 Tarangire National Park

Today, it's off to the bush! Our first safari days are spent at Tarangire National Park, where we stay for three nights. This year we added a third night as Peg finds this one of the most scenic and wildlife-rich parts of the



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entire route. Here, we are perched on a principal migration corridor into the Serengeti, about 100 miles from Arusha. Ancient boulders and baobab and fig trees surround us in this stunning landscape.

Tarangire is home to one of the largest Elephant populations in Tanzania. February is baby time, irresistible! This park is also the one place in Tanzania where dry-country antelope like the stately Fringe-eared Oryx and peculiar long-necked Gerenuk can be observed. Because of varied habitats, it is a bird lover's paradise, home to 550 bird varieties, the most breeding species in one habitat anywhere in the world.

In Tarangire we expect to see many Elephant and other wildlife like Wildebeest, Common Zebra, Buffalo, several mongoose species, Impala, Gazelle, Hartbeest, Eland, Lion, Cheetah, Leopard, Spotted Hyena, Vervet Monkey, Baboon, and many more. No two days are alike on safari, but every day holds tremendous wildlife viewing, often at close range. Animals congregate here in the dry season, offering us some spectacular concentrations and viewings.

The bird life in Tarangire includes many species associated with the trees, including woodpeckers, barbets, sandgrouse, and numerous songbirds. It is a fantastic place for raptors, and we get amazing views.

Accommodations at [Tarangire Safari Lodge](#) (B,L,D)



Sat., Feb. 8 Tarangire to Ndutu, A Special Region of the Serengeti Ecosystem

This morning's safari drive is through Tarangire's rich fantasy-land of Baobab trees as we depart the park. From here we drive up and over the rim of Ngorongoro Crater (which we take a peek at from a viewpoint, but visit later on the tour), en route to Lake Ndutu Luxury Tented Camp, passing from lush higher elevations down through an arid area, with fabulous scenery, geology, and colorful bird species. At the junction with Serengeti National Park, we veer south to the prime calving area for Wildebeest, on the mineral-rich soils of Ndutu, where wildlife watching abounds!

Accommodations at [Lake Ndutu Luxury Tented Camp](#) (B,L,D)

Sun., Feb. 9 & Mon., Feb. 10 Ndutu — The Place to Be in February!

The Ndutu area is part of the Serengeti, but administered as part of the large and vital Ngorongoro Conservation Area. It is the end of the line for the Wildebeest migration on the Tanzania end (the Mara, in Kenya being the other end), and they roam here in numbers that you just have to see to believe!

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As far as your eye can see, Wildebeest are running, feeding, fretting over newborn calves, and keeping an eye out for predators. Our accommodations are in an area of trees, by a lake that fringes this vital grassland area. Vast numbers of prey invite predators and no two days are alike. Leopard, Cheetah, Lion, and other cats are all possible. Both days we enjoy very extensive game and bird viewing drives, both morning and afternoon. The areas we explore are prime for Wildebeest calving; the circle of life is astounding. We often find a kill made before dawn, and watch as vultures, jackals, and other scavengers wait their turn for lions to be done.



Our camp is wonderful, and you are in the right place — ask any wildlife photographer where they love to go, and Ndutu or nearby Lake Masek are likely high on their list!

Accommodations Lake Ndutu Luxury Tented Camp (B,L,D)

Tues., Feb. 11 & Wed., Feb. 12 **Central Serengeti National Park**

The Serengeti boasts a unique combination of diverse habitats, enabling it to support species of large herbivores, as well as birds. Its landscape includes open grass plains, savannah with scattered acacia trees in the center, wooded grassland, and black clay plains. Small rivers and swamps are scattered throughout. Kopjes are scenic knolls of granite and gneiss outcroppings, great for birds of prey and mammalian predators that use them for resting, nesting, and dens; they are also great for seeing smaller mammals. This year we chose Central Serengeti for its ecological richness, and as some of the wildebeest action may be here, for attending predators, as well.



Serengeti National Park is undoubtedly the best-known wildlife sanctuary in the world, unequalled in its natural beauty and scientific value. With great concentrations of Wildebeest, Thomson's Gazelle, Zebra, and many other herbivores, Serengeti forms the greatest view of plains game in Africa and has long been a natural classroom for wildlife biologists, many of whom reside here for years. The Wildebeest



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and Zebra form the star cast of an iconic wildlife spectacle — the annual Serengeti migration.

Birding is also legendary in the Serengeti, and in between mammal sightings we find dozens of species! Over 500 species have been recorded, with 53 birds of prey and Secretary Bird among them. Some of the memorable species include colorful Saddle-billed Stork, African Openbill Stork, Lappet-faced Vulture, Tawny and Martial Eagles, Kori Bustard, Meyer's Parrot, Verreaux's Eagle Owl, Malachite and African Pygmy Kingfishers, Chinspot Batis, Fork-tailed Drongo, Beautiful Sunbird, Golden-breasted Bunting, and so many more!

While in the Serengeti, we can arrange a hot-air balloon ride for you (an additional cost), timed to watch the sun rise as you drift over the plains, filled at this time of year with wildlife — this is pretty wonderful! Preston Mutinda has personally chosen this camp, as once again, it's in the just the right location for maximum wildlife viewing, paired with excellent birding.

Just opened in 2016, Kubu Kubu is a premium permanent tented camp with stunning vistas of the Serengeti Plains. This camp provides a wonderful blend of nature and creature comforts, including a pool. Rooms are spacious with a wooden deck with views and comfortable seating.

Accommodations at [Kubu Kubu Serengeti Camp](#) (B,L,D)



Thurs., Feb. 13 Oldupai Gorge | Ngorongoro Crater Rim

This morning we enjoy a morning game drive as we work our way to the gate, departing Serengeti. We enjoy a picnic lunch and a visit to the world-famous Oldupai Gorge. The Gorge is famous for the study of human evolution and one of the most significant anthropological sites in the world. A local guide helps us understand the sequence of important finds here. This is an arid area, with fabulous scenery, geology, and colorful bird species, in addition to its renowned history. A small here museum has excellent exhibits.

As we reach Ngorongoro Crater, we witness a landscape that is spectacular to view from above *and* below. Your first view from the rim down into this fabled crater is unforgettable! Either today or tomorrow, those that wish can visit a Maasai Village to learn more about Maasai culture. After settling in, we spend the late afternoon birding and watching for wildlife from the rim.

Accommodations at [Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge](#) (B,L,D)

Fri., Feb. 14 Ngorongoro Crater

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Early this morning we descend into the crater, taking a picnic lunch. The Ngorongoro Crater and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area are, without a doubt, some of the most beautiful parts of Tanzania, steeped in history and teeming with wildlife. This protected area is located in the Great Rift Valley and is also known as the eighth wonder of the world. The Crater is actually a gigantic fracture in the earth's crust, consisting of volcanoes, mountains, plains, lakes, forests, and archaeological sites.

At 1600 meters (approximately 5200 ft.) above sea level, the bottom of the Crater is extensive, measuring 265 km (102 miles) square. It is dotted with watering holes, and offers shelter to almost 30,000 individual animals in an area naturally enclosed by the slopes of the volcano. It is hard to find this density of mixed mammal species anywhere else in the world. The bird life is largely seasonal and is also affected by the ratio of soda and fresh water on the crater floor. We observe the behavior of the abundant wildlife: Lion, Zebra, Hippo, Buffalo, Warthog, Dung Beetle, and Eland are just a few. Considerable research has been done at Ngorongoro and we relate this as we drive. The crater's Elephant are, strangely, mainly bulls. There are also a small number of rare Black Rhino.

We stay there in the crater until mid-afternoon, then head back to our lovely hotel on the rim. Those that wish to keep birding can enjoy some of the mountain species, new for our route, on the hotel grounds.

Accommodations at Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge (B,L,D)



Sat., Feb. 15 Lake Manyara National Park

This morning we descend from the rim of this world-famous crater to spend the afternoon exploring Lake Manyara National Park, one of the region's Great Rift Valley lakes. The park holds an expanse of woodlands and vast plains, as well as the large alkaline soda lake that attracts such a rich variety of waterfowl. The acacia trees and shrubs are home to tree climbing Lion, enormous tusked Elephant, Bushbuck, Giraffe, Zebra, Buffalo, Leopard, Impala, and other mammals. We learn more about the area's geology from the Mto Wa Mbu escarpment, from which we overlook the Rift Valley and the Manyara Soda Lake.



One of the great features of Lake Manyara, situated in the Great Rift Valley, is the birding at the lake; both numbers and species are a highlight. Near the visitor center we may find a massive colony of Yellow-billed Stork, active in courtship and nest building. At a marshy area of the lake, we watch Hippos alongside African Jacana, numerous plovers, and handsome storks.

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Manyara is a large alkaline lake and can attract large numbers of Lesser Flamingo and other waterbirds. The lake and wetlands teem with species, including Pied Kingfisher, Hamerkop, African Fish Eagle, African Spoonbill, Great White Pelican, Lesser Kestrel, a variety of hornbills, woodpeckers, and other species.

For those that wish, you can choose a final night outing outside the park, with a small local company permitted to enjoy night game viewing to try for a few last species. One year we found African Porcupine, several owls, and two spectacular sleeping hornbills. The next year they had Leopard, and a host of exciting finds.

Accommodations at [Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge](#) (B,L,D)

Sun., Feb. 16 Departures

Join Preston for coffee and a final walk to find a few final avian jewels this morning. We depart after breakfast with a return to Arusha in time to meet flights out after 6:00 PM. We need to be at the airport three hours ahead of departure. If you need to book an earlier flight, you will need you need to book a hotel to go out the following day. We try to be flexible this day for possible shifts in international flight schedules. (B)

This week-long extension in Kenya has been designed to complement our Tanzania safari, with a choice of parks that do not duplicate what we experience in Tanzania. We chose Mountain Lodge so you can see a lush forest on the slopes of Mt. Kenya and Nakuru National Park, famous for its wetlands and the security it provides both White and Black Rhinos, as well as tree-climbing lions and healthy Leopard populations. We end at Amboseli National Park, one of Kenya's most scenic spots with views of Mt. Kilimanjaro, springs, and wetlands contrasting vast salt pans. Amboseli is best known for elephants and the decades-long research of Cynthia Moss. It is rich in bird life and has Cheetah, Hyena, Lion, and more. You then connect to Tanzania by road, at a border crossing that has modern facilities, making it quite an easy process. Our guide, Preston Mutinda, is from Kenya and currently serves as President of the Kenya Wildlife Guide's Association. He has extended his company in recent years and now works in Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda. When you pass from Kenya to Tanzania, a Kenyan driver drops you off and you are met by our Tanzania drivers for the safari.

Optional Kenya Extension



Tues., Jan. 28 Arrival in Nairobi | Ole Sereni Hotel

After a long flight, our local guide and host Preston Mutinda has chosen a hotel for us that is a real treat. You are met at the airport and transferred to lovely, modern accommodations with a view of Nairobi National Park. Enjoy views of native animals from your room, the patio of the restaurant, bar, or swimming pool. This hotel is just minutes from the airport and away from the hustle and bustle of the city. As those in our group arrive at varying

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hours, plan on purchasing meals this first night; choose from the hotel's excellent restaurant or its casual patio bar. Jetlag is real; some of us may just go to bed!

We can recommend flights if you wish to travel with other members of the group. There is also the option to arrive one night earlier (additional cost) to rest up from travels. If several choose to do this, we can offer optional activities that would include a chance to see Daphne Sheldrake's Elephant Orphanage in the late morning as they feed the Elephants, followed by lunch and a visit to the Karen Blixen home and the adjacent Giraffe Manor, or a safari in Nairobi National Park.

Accommodations at Ole-Sereni Hotel, Nairobi

Wed., Jan. 29 Mountain Lodge, Mt. Kenya

This morning we leave Nairobi, driving north towards Mt. Kenya and our accommodations at Mountain Lodge. We arrive in time for lunch and to settle in and start watching wildlife come in to a waterhole, which is visible at several levels of the lodge. It's an amazing experience to watch troops of Baboon, Bushbuck, Buffalo, and even Elephant at such close range.

This venerable lodge is one we've stayed at on all our Kenya journeys. Its view of spectacular Mt. Kenya, its location in lovely forest with trails, and its ambiance are hard to equal. The lodge works hard at maintaining a light ecological footprint in its prime location within Mt. Kenya National Park. African Buffalo are often at the waterhole, as are groups of Elephant, often with very new youngsters at their side. Bushbuck and Waterbuck approach carefully, always alert for Lion and other predators. Giant Forest Hog often come in at night. Close to the lodge, Spotted Genet often come in after dark, and guests must be careful not to invite Sykes Monkey into their room by leaving a window open!

In addition to mammals, we find some wonderful birds in the forests, and from the rooftop deck of our lodge. Birdlife International lists 55 trigger species for the area, including Mountain Buzzard, beautiful Hartlaub's Turaco, Abyssinian Owl, Bar-tailed Trogon, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, six species of sunbirds, and others.

So what is this place like? We find a good description on Mountain Lodge's website: "Raised on stilts above the forest canopy, a timbered drawbridge leads from the forest and up on to the wooden 'decks' of the lodge. Inside, the impression of having boarded a ship is perpetuated by a combination of log paneled walls, timbered game-viewing decks and winding stairs leading to a selection of snugly comfortable, cabin-styled rooms."

Accommodations at [Mountain Lodge](#), Mt. Kenya National Park (B,L,D)

Thurs., Jan. 30 Mt. Kenya Area | Drive to Lake Nakuru National Park | Kenya's Rift Valley | Flamingo Hill Camp

Knock, knock. It's time to wake up in your tree-top lodge for something special has been sighted at the waterhole! Throughout the night, lodge staff awaken guests (at their request) if unusual mammals come to the waterhole.

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In the morning, we meet for coffee on the roof-top viewing area, watching sunrise on Mt. Kenya and a grand array of birds.

After breakfast, we join the lodge's excellent naturalist for a walk in the forest nearby. Walk a comfortable trail under a lush canopy, just teeming with birds, and sometimes mammals, particularly squirrels and monkeys. Our focus is on natural history here, for at this location we are in a habitat totally different than any other we visit on the journey. Species seen here, particularly the birds, are not likely encountered again.



After lunch, we drive a back route from Mt. Kenya over to Lake Nakuru, stopping at historic Thompson's Falls along the way. We find great views as we descend into Kenya's Great Rift Valley. Our accommodations tonight are inside Lake Nakuru National Park. The food here is lovely and we are right in the midst of wildlife. Fabulous Yellow-fever Acacia trees line the roads here, making for beautiful photography. We drive through the park en route to our lodgings, arriving at sunset to a very restful place.

Accommodations at [Flamingo Hill Tented Camp](#) (B,L,D)

Fri. Jan. 31 Nakuru National Park

We find Nakuru to be a lovely realm of forests, vast wetlands, and open meadows where wildlife roams — it's just a delight to have time here. The Great Rift Valley is a stunning geologic feature and extensive agricultural area of Kenya.



Lake Nakuru is a large alkaline lake, surrounded by woodland and grassland. Lake Nakuru National Park is famous for Hippos and at times, astounding numbers of Lesser Flamingo. It is one of Kenya's earliest-established parks, and today is one of its Rhino Sanctuaries, with both Black and White Rhinos occurring. Last year we were fortunate to have time with a White Rhino mother and calf, as well as have close views of a male Black Rhino on a separate drive. Rothschild's Giraffe, plentiful Waterbuck, and warthog are here, along with a great variety of wildlife in the upland areas.

The lake and wetlands team with bird species including Pied Kingfisher, Hamerkop, African Fish Eagle, and rarer Goliath Heron. Over 450 bird species have been

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recorded here, and Birdlife International lists over 30 trigger species, including Little and Black-necked Grebes, African Spoonbill, Great White Pelican, Lesser Kestrel, Hempich's Hornbill, Grey-crested Helmet-shrike, Bronzed and Golden-winged Sunbirds, and Purple Grenadier. Mammal viewing is equally good at Lake Nakuru National Park. Preston so artfully places us at the right spot for wildlife action, light for our images, and truly memorable times.

At Nakuru, we have another chance to see White Rhinos, and to observe the extraordinary tree-climbing Lions found here. Leopards have delighted our group in previous years.

Our tented camp here is an intimate one, with just 25 tents. We have electricity, lovely furnishings and textiles, and wonderful food and service, all while being as close to nature as possible.

Accommodations at Flamingo Hill Camp, Lake Nakuru National Park (B,L,D)

Sat., Feb. 1 Drive to Amboseli National Park

We take much of the day to drive to Amboseli National Park, tucked down by the Tanzania border. We take some rest stops, which in Kenya translates to a stop at a tourist shop if one wants to find porcelain (vs. an African bathroom — a hole in the floor).

Handicrafts include wood carvings, beaded objects, soapstone carvings, batiks, musical instruments, and more. We have lunch at a restaurant along the way.

Outside the park, we see Maasai in their colorful, red traditional dress, and their boumas, which are clusters of mud-walled homes within a traditional ring of shrubs cut to make a safe enclosure for people and their cattle. Entering Amboseli, the first impact is the stellar view of Mt. Kilimanjaro across extensive salt pans. Standing at 19,340 feet, this stunning mountain makes its own weather; afternoon clouds can hide the summit and then it can peek back through again.



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We start seeing birds: Fischer's Sparrow Lark, Red-capped Lark, African Harrier Hawk, Pale Chanting Goshawk, and of course, Lilac-breasted Roller with its kaleidoscope of twenty-seven colors. Impressive is just the physical beauty of Amboseli, which former clients have described as "quintessential Africa." Giraffe and Elephant are common.

Our accommodations here are in comfortable tented cabins where we have full baths with showers, comfortable furniture, and a view facing the slopes of Kilimanjaro. The swimming pool is a great place to rest and bird, with African Pied Wagtail, colorful firefinches, and Chestnut Weaver taking drinks from the edge. White-bellied Go-Away-Bird, Speckled Mousebird, and incredibly bright Beautiful Sunbird may feed in flowering acacia trees all around.

After a break, we meet about 3:30 PM for a game drive, keeping our eyes open to spot a Fringe-eared Oryx, a fairly rare find of a range-restricted species here at Amboseli. Tall umbrella acacias frame views of Kilimanjaro. What typically steals the show for the afternoon is time with Elephants. It's amazing to be so close to these giants. They spend time in the water, and when they emerge with their legs so dark against pale, mud-clad bodies, they are startling. The age mix of the herd makes for playful encounters; we have ample time to photograph, watch, and wait for things to happen. There are just SO many Elephants, surrounded by ample numbers of Grant's Gazelle and Zebra. We make a loop drive, always scanning for Cheetah, Hyena, and more.

Dinner here is a buffet, with one of the choices being pizza made in a most ingenious oven — a circular stack of charcoal bins, each red hot and ready for a round pizza pan, delicious and made to order.

Accommodations near Amboseli National Park (B,L,D)

Sun., Feb. 2 & Mon., Feb. 3 **Amboseli National Park — Morning & Afternoon Game Drives**

Kilimanjaro is the source of water for myriad underground rivers and springs at Amboseli, and we visit two marshes, each a stunning oasis full of life. Enjoy watching herds of Zebra with young, the little



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ones frisky, and often hiding behind their moms. Watch herd dynamics; see the dominant female discipline another with just a short switch of her ears. You may be mesmerized by variations in the stripe patterns — particularly on their faces but also on their flanks and bellies.

Hippos lie sunken into the marshes. A variety of birds use them as perches: Cattle Egret, African Jacana, Glossy Ibises. We also see Egyptian Goose, African Spoonbill, Black-headed Heron, and impressive Goliath Heron, the latter being the world's largest heron, standing up to five feet. Steppe and Martial Eagles may perch in view atop isolated trees, or we may find a crèche of Ostrich chicks guarded by wary parents.

We take a drive to a scenic lookout. Nearby, if the group wants to, we can visit a Maasai village, showing up unannounced other than by the dust of our vehicles coming over their hills. With us they share dances and songs, demonstrate making fire, and they may share a young medicine man's discussion of herbs. Their homes are mud and dung huts, which are neatly placed in a continuous circle. Men show their skills at jumping high, while singing a guttural rhythm.

We have the opportunity to go inside the houses to see the cooking and sleeping areas, beds placed low to the floor with a mattress of thin cowhide. We meet several of the families and they welcome questions, which they patiently answer and occasionally laugh at.

You can buy bangles and beadwork and carvings, or even buy a pair of sandals made out of tires. The modern world has touched here, evidenced mainly by cell phones; nowadays they are as likely to take *our* photos!

We go back for lunch, take a break, then depart on the afternoon drive to position ourselves within view of long lines of elephants parading back from their day at the marsh, back to the wood where they rest, over vast



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stretches of open plain. Stunning! Amboseli National Park is the place of Cynthia Moss' life work on Elephants and by the close of this day we clearly see how the place utterly captivated her.

Accommodations near Amboseli National Park (B,L,D)

Tues., Feb. 4 Amboseli to Arusha

With an allowance of time for the border crossing, we use the morning to again cross Amboseli National Park en route to Arusha, game viewing for the morning. We change drivers and vehicles at the border, and Preston Mutinda, our guide and operator, continues on with us. It's an easy process. We do ask people to get visas done ahead of time to speed things up, but it can be done at the border if necessary.

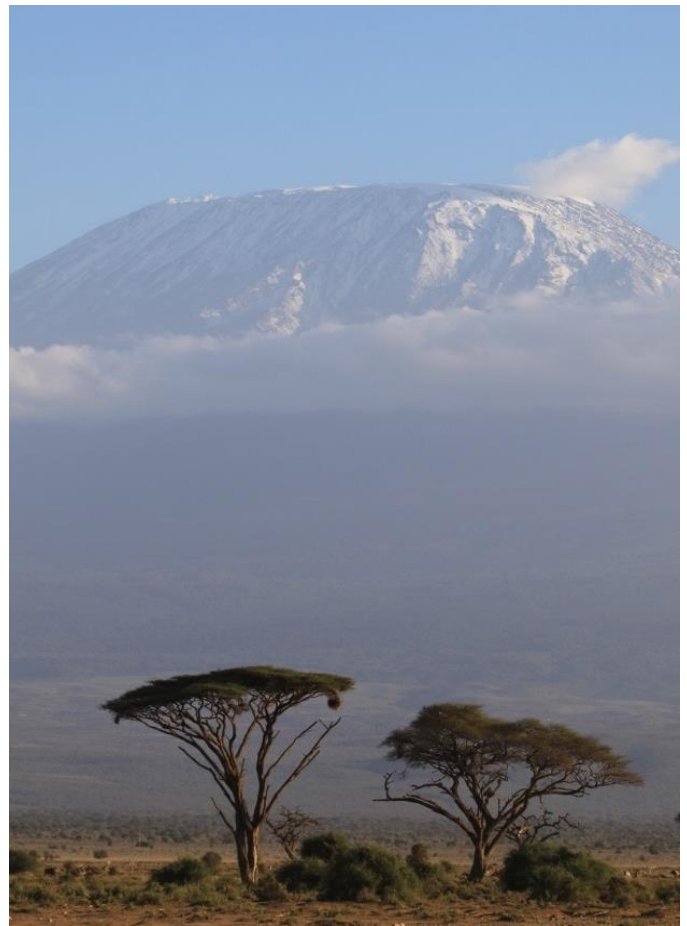
We meet up with others from our group arriving for the main safari today at the delightful Arumeru River Lodge. (B,L,D)



Our Guide, Preston Mutinda

Naturalist Journeys' owner Peg Abbott has been a friend and colleague of Preston since her first African adventure in 1992. He is, by far, the top wildlife spotter she has encountered in thirty years of guiding, and he is a generous, knowledgeable, fun person to travel with; one who can keep us safe, find key species, and share his knowledge of East Africa's history, ecology, and culture.

Preston Mutinda was born in Eastern Kenya in the tribe Kamba. He is a highly-accomplished guide, being one of only a handful of Gold-rated guides in Kenya. His easy manners, good sense of humor, competency, and flexibility are highly prized. He works with trusted



Tanzania Wildlife & Birding Safari With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures

colleagues in Tanzania and is there to help interpret and spot wildlife in the ecosystem the two countries share.

Preston dreamed of venturing into wildlife protection when he was a young boy. That dream came true when he graduated from Kenya Utalii [tourism] College in 1978. He has a Diploma in Safari Guiding and Ornithology. He worked for East African Ornithological Safaris and Origins Safaris in Kenya and Tanzania for many years.

Preston expanded his passion for leading safaris when he started Preston's Birding & Wildlife Safaris, one of the top leaders in the safari industry (www.prestonsafaris.info). It specializes in customized adventures appealing to all budgets where he is the Safari Director.

Preston has travelled extensively in seventeen U.S. states doing wildlife presentations. In 2001 he received a scholarship for a 4-month internship at the Brukner Nature Center with the help of Troy Rotary Club in Ohio. When he returned, he started a community center called Mutinda Wildlife Education Center with support from Troy Rotary Club and many friends from the U.S. He has over 150 students in that nature and birding club, actively learning about wildlife and nature.

The long experience he has in safari guiding has reinforced a lifelong commitment to wildlife conservation. He is also currently the Director of Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association.

Cost of the Journey

Plan Ahead!

Protect yourself with Allianz Travel Insurance. A handy link for travel insurance is in the footer of each of our emails. Their website will show a grid of tour cost and your age category for you to make selections. As of January 2017 Naturalist Journeys pays 100% of your flight carbon offset.

Cost of the Journey

Cost of the 13-Day / 12-Night journey (Main Tour) is \$9425 DBL / \$10,360 SGL from Arusha, Tanzania. Our tour is one day longer this year and we've upgraded lodging. This cost includes accommodations for 12 nights, all meals as specified in the itinerary, professional guide services, other park and program entrance fees and miscellaneous program expenses. Please ask us about a cash discount.

Cost of the 8-Day / 7-night Kenya Safari is \$3690 DBL / \$4198 SGL per person. This cost includes accommodations for seven nights, all meals from dinner January 28 through lunch February 4, transfer Arusha/Kenya border, all land transportation, game park entry fees, Mt. Kenya Nature walk fee, Maasai Cultural village visit fee (if desired), unlimited game/bird viewing drives, bottled mineral water, temporary enrollment in flying doctor services.

Tour and extension costs do not include: round-trip transportation from your home city to Nairobi or Arusha, optional activities, or items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone charges, gratuities for guides, lodges and drivers, or beverages from the bar. Costs exclude: International airfare; personal, medical, cancellation insurance; tips for guides, drivers, and lodges.

Two optional activities can be booked on the main safari: a night drive with a local company permitted for night outings by Lake Manyara (approximately \$180pp) and a balloon ride (several locations, approximately \$580 per person). There is also an option to pay all miscellaneous lodge and local guide tips ahead of time with a

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contribution to the tip pool, leaving only your main guide tip to Preston Mutinda, our operator (\$450). Preston will then handle all the tipping for the safari.

Group Size: Maximum of 5 passengers per vehicle. Tour prices are based on 10 persons, in two vehicles; we can confirm 4-5 persons with Preston for the same pricing in a single vehicle.

Group Size

The journey is limited to a group of 10. In Tanzania we use Toyota Land Cruisers, which hold six, plus guide and driver, but we leave an open seat for moving around and holding gear. In Kenya we use either the Toyota Land Cruiser or a mini-van depending on the group, both have pop-up tops allowing you to stand for game viewing.

Flight Routes

Flights with the fewest stopovers route to Arusha on KLM via Amsterdam at this time. There are other airlines that typically offer flights with stopovers in Nairobi as well, making it quite possible to spend time in Kenya without added airfare. If there is interest in going to Rwanda to see Mountain Gorilla, or adding additional safari time in either Kenya or Tanzania, to different areas, please let us know.

Travel Information

Plan to arrive in Arusha, Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) no later than February 4. As the flight from Amsterdam arrives in the evening, we encourage you to arrive in time to allow some time to rest up from travel. If you participate in the Kenya extension, please plan to arrive in Nairobi at your leisure on January 28. Please plan departure flights after 6:00 PM on February 16; we plan to arrive at the airport by 3:00 PM. If you need to book an earlier flight please check with us, it may need to be the next day, and if so we can arrange a hotel for you for the evening (around \$260pp).

Naturalist Journeys, LLC is an equal opportunity service provider and committed to the goal of ensuring equal opportunity for all in employment and program delivery.

Photo Credits

All photos by Peg Abbott unless otherwise noted. Lion; Golden-collared Lovebirds; Zebras; Crowned Cranes Dancing; Elephants; Giraffes Drinking; Yellow-billed Stork Rookery; African Fish Eagle by Greg Smith; Hippo; Newborn Elephant; Helmeted Guinea fowl; Photography at Waterhole; Leopard; Bare-faced Go-away-bird; Blue-cheeked Bee-eater; Impala Trio; Baobabs; Wildebeest and Calf; Lioness and Cub; Kori Bustard in Display; Saddle-billed Stork by Greg Smith; Massai Village Visit; Warthog; Cheetah; Gray Hornbill; Yellow-billed Stork; Giraffe; Lioness; Orphan Elephant; Elephant Parade; Scenic; Elephant and Baby; Scenic; Lake Nakuru Bird Life; Giraffes Drinking; Yellow-billed Stork Feeding; Black Rhino; Leopard; Hamerkop; Vervet Monkey; Lilac-breasted Roller; Elephant Line Up by Greg Smith; Buffalo; Amboseli NP; Maasai Village; Preston Mutinda with Client.