

# Comfortable Hiking Holidays

Hike an adventure. Rest in Comfort.

## Trip Itinerary: Kenya Holiday

July 14 to 26, 2019

Back by popular demand!

- Day 1** JAMBO KENYA!  
Upon arriving in Nairobi, get a good night's sleep before beginning our Kenyan adventure in earnest the following day.
- Day 2** ABERDARES  
Transfer to Nyeri in Central Kenya, arriving in time for lunch. In the afternoon, hike where warthogs and impalas roam free, not to mention gazelles, reticulated giraffes and the biggest antelopes - the elands. (Light-moderate, 6 km)
- Day 3** SOLIO RANCH  
First game drive of the holiday. Solio Ranch is a rhino sanctuary with the world's largest population of black rhinos. Buffalo, giraffes, zebras and various members of the antelope family also call this home.
- Day 4** ABERDARE NP & THE ARK  
Aberdare NP is characterized by deep ravines, huge waterfalls and moorlands. Many animals live in this park including rhinos, leopards, baboons, and Colobus monkeys. Hike and picnic in the moorlands before transferring to The Ark to overnight. (Moderate, 7km, undulating)  
The Ark is deep in the Aberdare NP and was designed for game viewing. Its large picture windows overlook a floodlit watering hole which gives us the opportunity to have the animals come to us instead of the other way around.
- Day 5** GILGIL  
Transfer from Central Kenya to the Rift Valley - renown for its volcanoes, hot springs and soda lakes. Visit the Gilgil Spinners and Weavers where artisans spin wool dyed with local plants and weave fabrics and carpets on handmade looms.
- Day 6** MORNING VISIT TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & AFTERNOON HIKE ON CRESCENT ISLAND  
Visit the Lake Naivasha Primary School and play with the children at recess.  
After lunch, take a boat to Crescent Island. Crescent Island is the protruding rim of an extinct volcano and a private sanctuary for hundreds of giraffes, zebras, wildebeest and waterbucks. (Light, 6 km)
- Day 7** LAKE ELEMENTAITA  
Lake Elementaita is one of the Rift Valley's soda lakes and its shorelines were once fringed in pink thanks to thousands of flamingos. Hike from the shores of the Lake, past children bathing in the hot springs, and into the Kikopey Hills to the edge of Horseshoe Crater. (Light-moderate, 13 km)  
Visit the colourful Naivasha market, a typical African trading centre, on our way home.
- Day 8** HELL'S GATE NATIONAL PARK  
Hell's Gate NP is stunning! Hike first along African savannah as zebras graze lazily and baboons clamour about. Then descend into Hell's Gate Gorge whose valley floor is lined with obsidian from the two extinct volcanoes nearby. A side-trip into Old Njorowa Gorge will reveal a sandstone ravine that has been artfully sculpted by water. Wait until you see the display of sunlight as it dances and curves around the walls of the gorge. (Moderate, 12 km)

## Day 9

### CRATER LAKE

Crater Lake Game Sanctuary is home to over 150 species of birds, not to mention giraffes, zorillas, aardvarks and black & white colobus monkeys. Do a circular hike atop the crater rim with excellent views of the blue-green lake down below. (Moderate, 10 km)

## Day 10

### SAFARI TO MASAI MARA

Safari is the Swahili word for journey and today we transfer from the Rift Valley to the Masai Mara. The sheer density of wildlife and classic savannah of the Masai Mara is the reason some people come to Kenya at all.

(Road conditions can be unpredictable; the drive will be dusty and bumpy and will require long distances on unpaved roads.)

Do a game drive in the late afternoon, catching our first sunset over the Masai Mara.

## Day 11

### MASAI MARA

Set off on a morning game drive in search of simba, cheetahs and leopards. Of course, also stop for elephants, giraffes and zebras! Just outside the Talek Gate of the National Reserve, meet up with a Masai who will take us to a manyatta to meet his age-mates and the women of the village. They will dance and sing for us!

## Day 12

### MASAI MARA

In July and August is the annual wildebeest migration when millions of wildebeest move north from the Serengeti Plains to the Masai Mara in search of lush grasslands. Hopefully, we'll be here just in time to be part of this phenomenal experience. But as nature is unpredictable, we cannot guarantee when the migration will take place, so today's activities will have to remain flexible.

## Day 13

### KIAMBETHU TEA FARM

From the Masai Mara, we journey back to Nairobi, but first stop at a tea plantation for tea (naturally). Kenya is the world's 3rd largest tea exporter and the Kiambethu Tea Estate is one of the oldest in Kenya. From the tea farm, continue on to the Nairobi airport for the flight home.

Kwaheri Kenya!