



AFRICAN QUEST SAFARIS LTD.

Nairobi: AQS House | Off Mombasa Road

Wireless: +254 20 2345 742 | Mobile: +254 704 154 227 | +254 787 403 006

Mombasa

Tel: +254 41 222 7052 | Mobile: +254 737 224 922

WhatsApp: +254 723 114911

info@africanquest.co.ke | Website: www.africanquestsafaris.com

AQS SAFARI BEYOND THE TRAILS



Day 1: Arrival in Nairobi

Arrival of your flight at **Jomo Kenyatta International Airport**. You will be welcomed by African Quest Safaris team outside the arrival's hall. You will then be transferred to your City Hotel where we will help you check -in and you can take your rest. Accommodation on Bed and Breakfast meal plan.

Day 2: Nairobi

Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast at the hotel at leisure. Today we explore this vibrant city with its many interesting sites. We will start with the **A FEW Giraffe Centre** dedicated to conservation of the endangered Rothschild Giraffes, followed by the **Daphne Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage**, one of the finest Elephant orphanages in Africa. Lunch will be served at a pre- selected restaurant serving your choice of cuisine from anywhere in the world. After lunch we will visit the spectacular **Kitengela Hot Glass** and **Anselm Croze** where they create blown objects, dalle de verre, chandeliers, lamps, beads and full interiors from recycled glass. Afterwards you can be transferred to the hotel at leisure. Overnight stay on bed and breakfast basis

Day 3: Nairobi - Mathews Range

After breakfast at the hotel and check out. Drive to the Mathews Range, a thickly forested range of mountains that support a variety of animals such as vervet monkeys, warthogs, dik-dik, hyena, waterbuck, duiker, lions, leopards and buffalo make their home. This area is largely undeveloped and walking through the cool of the forest is an exhilarating experience.

However, it is really the elephants which are the star attraction most of the year.

All meals and accommodation at the camp.

Day 4 & 5: Mathews Range

Breakfast at the camp and check out with picnic lunch for a full day at **Samburu Game Reserve**. The reserve provides some of the best and most colorful game viewing in the country. Morning and afternoon game drives in the reserve with arguably the most beautiful scenery in Kenya. At all times, your driver-guide will take the best approach possible to any sighting, to ensure that you are placed as close and safely to the sighting as possible.

Return to the camp in the evening for dinner and overnight.

Day 6: Mathews Range - Aberdares National Park

Breakfast at the camp and check out. Drive to **Aberdares** via Nanyuki, Aberdares has high mountains, dense rain forest, and thickets of bamboo, rushing rivers, cascading waterfalls, abundant birdlife, rare monkeys, and the opportunity to spot elephants, leopards, and lions sipping water from a forest waterhole from a vantage-point high in the forest. The park is famous for being the best place in Africa to get close to free-ranging elephants.

Arrive at the **Aberdare Country Club**, check in and have lunch. Afternoon transfer to the **Ark Lodge** in the lodge vehicle. **NOTE: Only an overnight bag is allowed.** The rest of the luggage is stored at the base hotel. Observation of small and large mammals from the terrace of the lodge overlooking a floodlit water hole by night. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 7: Aberdares - Lake Naivasha

Breakfast at the lodge while observing wildlife at the waterhole. Transfer to the base hotel to rejoin your driver-guide. Collect the stored bags and depart for the Lake Naivasha at the foot of the Great Rift Valley Escarpment. Lake Naivasha is a diverse bird and animal habitat. Colobus monkeys are often seen in the canopy of the Acacia forests around the lake, and on the north shore of the lake Buffalo, Waterbuck and Eland are often seen grazing. Check in at Lake Naivasha Camp followed by lunch. Afternoon take a boat ride on the lake (**shared basis**) followed by a private guided nature walk on Crescent Island Sanctuary. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 8: Lake Naivasha

Leisurely breakfast at the at your lakeside camp and depart for **Hells Gate National Park**. Enjoy a guided bike ride and walk at the park. Return to the camp for lunch and spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight stay

Day 9: Lake Naivasha- Masai Mara National Reserve

07h00: Breakfast and check out. Drive via Narok to the **Maasai Mara National Reserve** offering wonderful scenery and plenty of game. It is perhaps the only region left in Kenya where the visitor may see animals in the same super-abundance as existed a century ago. Maasai Mara is blessed with a permanent water supply and has a permanent population of plains game. The "big five" - elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard and rhino are quite common. Arrive at the Lodge, check-in for a late lunch. In the afternoon enjoy a game drive at the park until sundown. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 10: Masai Mara National Reserve

06h30- 08h30: Early morning game drive followed by breakfast. Enjoy Maasai Cultural Village Tour (Manyatta) and continue with game drive for the rest of the day. Explore the plains and rolling hills for a chance to spot the images of your dreams ranging from beautiful scenery to fascinating views of wildlife, in a natural habitat. Return to camp by sundown.

Day 11: Masai Mara National Reserve

Full day spent game-viewing in the reserve. Explore the plains and rolling hills for a chance to spot the images of your dreams ranging from beautiful scenery to fascinating views of wildlife, in a natural habitat. Morning and afternoon game drives or a full day game drive with packed lunches would take you closer to nature.

Optional Hot Air Balloon Ride to see the park from above.

All meals and overnight at the camp

Day 12: Masai Mara - Nairobi

08H00: Breakfast at the camp and check out. Depart for Nairobi from Maasai Mara, Arrive and transfer to Carnivore restaurant for lunch. In the afternoon, transfer to your city hotel check in and have the evening at leisure.

Accommodation on Bed and breakfast meal plan

Day 13: Nairobi- Amboseli National Park

07h30: Breakfast, depart for **Amboseli National Park**. The park lies on the shadow of the most famous symbol of Africa, **Mount Kilimanjaro**, the highest in Africa and the highest free-standing mountain in the world. Its snowcapped peak will dominate the background while you marvel at the wildlife and scenery. Underground streams from Kilimanjaro surface in the center of Amboseli creating swamps that attract and support a rich diversity of wild animals and birdlife. Check in at Zebra Plains followed by lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy game drive in the park till sundown. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 14: Amboseli National Park

Full day spent in Amboseli National Park with morning and afternoon game drives. Savour the enchanting views of the magnificent countryside on the shade of the highest mountain in Africa and abundant large mammals. All meals and overnight stay at the camp

Day 15: Amboseli National Park - Kilifi County

Early breakfast and check out with packed lunch. Transfer to **Emali train station** departing at **09h51** for Mombasa Terminus. **14h18:** Arrive at Mombasa terminus, met by our team and transferred to a Resort in Kilifi. Check in at the resort and spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner and overnight stay

Day 16-17: Kilifi County

2 Full days on the beach for relaxation with optional excursions. Try deep sea fishing off Kilifi or visit the nearby **Arabuko Forest Reserve**, **Mida Creek** and the ancient city of **Gede** for a bird and a chance to see rare birds, turtle conservation and local culture. Accommodation on full board basis.

Day 18: Kilifi - depart

Leisurely breakfast at the resort and check out of the rooms by 10h00. Transfer to Malindi Airport / Mombasa Airport for your onward flight.

Service Information

Daphne Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage

Daphne Sheldrick Orphanage, located in a secluded area of the **Nairobi National Park**, where orphaned baby elephants amongst other animals are taken care of by a dedicated team of conservationists. At 1100 Hours, the baby animals are brought from the National Park for a mud-bath at the orphanage, where for an hour you can get close to them and sometimes touch them. Sheldrick Baby Elephant Orphanage in Nairobi National Park drive takes approximately 45 Minutes and is open one for only an hour daily for the public. You can visit between 11h00 and 12h00 every day and see the elephants being fed and playing. In addition, there is a keeper who will give a talk about the elephants, where they came from, how they are getting on, and how some of the previous orphans are progressing. You can get really close to the elephants. The orphanage also takes in rhinos and so if you are lucky you will get the chance to see a young rhino.



Lake Naivasha Boat Excursion

Crescent Island Game Sanctuary is on a peninsula or island on the eastern side of Lake Naivasha, created in 1988, when Lake Naivasha level dropped sufficiently to allow Crescent Island to become part of the mainland. The terrain is flat, making it easy for walkers of all abilities to enjoy themselves. There is a lot of easy to see game e.g. giraffes, waterbucks, elands, wildebeests, zebras and impalas. It is also a heaven for birds with more than 200 species recorded. The lake has a lot of hippos, which you can easily spot from the island.

Among the resident birds are fish eagles, ospreys, lily-trotters, black crakes and a variety of herons. A number of mammals can be seen grazing in the surrounding environs, such as zebra, impala, wildebeest, giraffe, Kongoni and, at night, hippos.

A short boat trip on the lake gives you access to the unique Crescent Island Wildlife Sanctuary. A wide variety of wildlife, birdlife and flora lives quite freely out there and as there are no predators.

Spend some time wandering around at your own pace, with a guide, and enjoy the peace and tranquility broken only by the sounds of the Islands wild inhabitants.



Bike Trek (Hell's Gate Nat. Park)

Hell's Gate is one of Kenya's smaller National Parks, which can be explored on foot and do some cycling. Arrive at the gate of Hell's Gate, start biking tour for 2 hours within the scenic park, some people will opt to drive which is also allowed. Animals which may be seen here include Bushbucks, Dikdiks, Giraffes,

Gazelles, Gnus, Hartebeests, Impalas, Klipspringers, Buffaloes, Hyraxes, Zebras, Hyenas, Jackals, Mongooses, Baboons, Monkeys and Porcupines amongst others. The park has historically been an important home for the rare lammergeyer vultures.



Carnivore Restaurant, Nairobi

The **Carnivore** is the ultimate 'Beast of a Feast'. A variety of meats including ostrich, crocodile and camel, are roasted over charcoal and carved at your table. Delicious side dishes and an exceptional array of sauces complement this feast that also includes soup, a selection of desserts and Kenyan coffee. Set in attractive tropical gardens, the service and the décor are outstanding. The atmosphere combines the rustic feel of a rural setting and a medieval banquet hall. Another famous feature to set the tone of the Carnivore experience is the house cocktail The 'Dawa' (magic potion in Swahili). It is based on a famous Brazilian drink, and was introduced to Kenyans at The Carnivore. It is brought to you on a portable tray by the medicine man fittingly named Dr. Dawa.



Standard Gauge Railway (SGR)

The SGR provides a scenic ride from Nairobi to Mombasa. You can be booked in first class or economy class depending on your preference. Either way you get a view of Kenya's landscape, people and wild animals from the comfort of your seat.



Location and Park Information

Nairobi

Nairobi is the capital city of Kenya. The largest and most populous city in East Africa, with a current estimated population of about 4.5 million, Nairobi started life as a railway's depot in 1899. Today, the city skyline is dominated by modern high-rise buildings and is a tourism and trade hub. Nairobi is now one of the most prominent cities in Africa politically and financially. A vibrant city with a mix of races and cultures, providing the visitor with several sightseeing options such as museums, a national park, golf courses, resorts

and posh night clubs. Nairobi is one of the leading cities in Africa.



Mathews Range

The Mathews Range is located in the Laikipia area of Kenya's Northern District. Approximately 200 km north of Isiolo

town, the Mathews region is a lush, forested range that stands in stark contrast to the surrounding semi desert. The natural springs and rivers located in the valleys provide a year-round source of water for both wildlife and the local Samburu people. Elephant, buffalo, leopard and other forest animals are often spotted through the thick forest cover; the area is particularly popular with bird and butterfly watchers. The Mathews area is also famous for its cycad plants and giant cedars. Many of the ancient cycads are endemic and found nowhere else on earth.



Aberdares National Park

The **Aberdares National Park** covers the higher areas of the Aberdares Mountain Range of central Kenya and the Aberdares Salient to their east. The park is located about 100 km north from Nairobi and stretches over a wide variety of terrains because it covers altitudes from about 7,000 feet (2,100 m) to 14,000 feet (4,300 m) above sea level. It covers an area of 766 square kilometers and forms part of the Aberdares Mountain Range. The park has a wide range of landscapes - from the mountain peaks that rise to 14,000 feet (4,300 m) above sea level, to their deep, v-shaped valleys intersected by streams, rivers, and waterfalls. Moorland, bamboo forests and rainforests are found at lower altitudes. Animals easily observed include the lion, leopard, baboon, black and white Colobus monkey, and Sykes monkey. Rarer sightings include those of the golden cat and the bongo - an elusive forest antelope that lives in the bamboo forest. Animals like the eland and melanistic serval cats can be found higher up in the moorlands.

The Aberdares National Park also contains a large population of black rhinos. Even the bird viewing is rewarding, with over 250 species of birds in the park, including the endangered Aberdares Cisticola, Jackson's Francolin, sparrow hawk, goshawks, eagles, sunbirds and plovers.



Lake Naivasha

Lake Naivasha is at the highest elevation of the Kenyan Rift valley at 1,884 metres (6,181 ft) in a complex geological combination of volcanic rocks and sedimentary deposits from a larger Pleistocene era lake. Apart from transient streams, the lake is fed by the perennial Malewa and Gilgil rivers. There is no visible outlet, but since the lake water is relatively fresh it is assumed to have an underground outflow. The lake has a surface area of 139 km², and is surrounded by a swamp which covers an area of 64 square km, but this can vary largely depending on rainfall. The lake has an average depth of 6 m (20 ft), with the deepest area being at Crescent Island, at a maximum depth of 30 m (100 ft). Njorowa Gorge used to form the lake's outlet, but it is now high above the lake and forms the entrance to Hell's Gate National Park. The town of Naivasha lies on the north-east edge of the lake.



Masai Mara National Reserve

Covering an area of over 1,500 square km, the **Masai Mara National Reserve** is one of the most popular tourism destinations in Kenya. The reserve is located between the Great Rift Valley and Lake Victoria in primarily open grassland. The swampy land provides more access to water and less access to tourists. The eastern end is closest to Nairobi and hence easier to access by tourists. The Masai Mara is regarded as the jewel of Kenya's wildlife viewing areas. There have been some 95 species of mammals, amphibians and reptiles and over 400 bird species recorded on the reserve. Nowhere in Africa is wildlife more abundant, and it is for this reason a visitor hardly misses to see the big five (buffalo, elephant, leopard, lion, and rhino).

*The **Greater Mara Ecosystem** encompasses areas known as the Maasai Mara National Reserve, the Mara Triangle, and several Maasai Conservancies, including: Koiyaki, Lemek, Ol Chorro Oiroua, Ol kinyei, Siana, Maji Moto, Naikara, Ol Derkesi, Kerinkani, Oloirien, and Kimintet. As in the Serengeti, the wildebeest are the dominant inhabitants of the Masai Mara, and their numbers are estimated in the millions. Around July of each year, these animals migrate north from the Serengeti plains in search of fresh pasture, and return to the south around October. The Great Migration is one of the most impressive natural events worldwide.*



Amboseli National Park

Amboseli National Park is renowned for its large elephant population, including some impressively tusked bulls drawn to a series of large, lush swamplands. This area is home to many Masai communities centered on the park. It has an area of 400 kms², with its southern boundary along the Tanzanian border. Here you may have the opportunity to observe herds of wildebeest, zebra and impala graze on the open plains. There are areas of acacia forest that make for good birding and are home to many small mammals. Cheetahs are also often sighted in the park.

*The main feature dominating the Amboseli plains is the **Mount Kilimanjaro**. With its peak at 5895m above sea level, it is the highest mountain in Africa. On a clear sky and often in the morning, visitors are rewarded with magnificent views of its snowcapped summits.*



Kilifi County

Kenya's coast is one of the most beautiful in the world. **Kilifi** is just north of Mombasa and has always been a popular retreat for Kenyan holiday makers as well as international travellers. The atmosphere is welcoming and friendly, whilst the long sandy beaches and swaying palms make it the perfect beach retreat. Kilifi is easily accessible both internationally and locally for those who are combining it with a safari inland. Local attractions include Marine Réserves with fabulous dive sites and spectacular Coral gardens, Arabuko- Sokoke Forest Reserve and cultural tours in the villages and ancient ruins.

