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AQS Northern Kenya - Lake Turkana Safari



Day 1 Nairobi - Samburu Game Reserve (6h Drive)

Arrival of your flight at *Jomo Kenyatta International Airport*.

Met by our team outside the immigration and customs halls.

Introduction to your Driver-Guide and short Safari briefing then drive north via Nanyuki and Mount Kenya to reach Samburu Game Reserve. Rugged and remote this wildlife reserve is home to rarely found species such as the Beisa Oryx, Grevy's zebra, blue-necked Somali ostrich and reticulated giraffe. The park is also renowned for its big cats as the nearby Ewaso Nyiro River attracts many leopards.

Arrive at the lodge, check in, lunch and relaxation.

Afternoon head out for a leisure game drive.

Dinner and overnight stay at your hotel.

Day 2 Samburu Game Reserve - Marsabit National Park (4h)

After breakfast, drive to Marsabit which is a forested mountain rising spectacularly from the middle of a desert wilderness. Marsabit National Reserve boasts three crater lakes and an abundance of bird and animal life.

Arrive for lunch at Marsabit Lodge.

Afternoon game drive inside the park.

Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 3 Marsabit National Park - Kalacha (7-8 hours)

Breakfast. Drive to Kalacha through the desert landscape with its lava flows. Picnic lunch will be provided.

The travel is a great opportunity to encounter new cultures and the Gabbra are an Eastern Cushitic people related to the Somali-Rendille in their historical origins in the southern Ethiopian highlands.

They are pastoralists, particularly attached to their camels.

Arrive at **Kalacha campsite** (*very basic accommodation*). Dinner and overnight

Day 4 Kalacha - Loiyangalani

After breakfast, drive to Loiyangalani, a cultural haven of the Turkana.

Picnic lunch to be provided. Arrive at the Camp in late afternoon.

Dinner and overnight.

Day 5 Loiyangalani

Day spent to enjoy cultural activities and visit of Desert Museum.

All meals and overnight at the camp.

Day 6 Loiyangalani - Maralal

07h30: Breakfast at the lodge on the lake shore and drive to **Maralal** via **North Horr** and **Baragoi**. Maralal is a small lively game reserve here with large herds of eland, buffalo, baboon, warthog and zebra. Camel safaris and the Maralal International Camel Derby, which takes place annually, are major attractions.

Picnic lunch en-route.

Arrive at Ngari Hill Guesthouse, check in, dinner and overnight stay.

Day 7 Maralal

Day spent at leisure at the lodge on full board basis.

There are a number of activities to engage in such as The Grand Samburu Tribal Trek, visit to Maralal Town, hiking in the private conservancy and Kirisia Forest and a special visit to "The World's End View Point."

Day 8 Maralal - Lake Baringo

07h30: Breakfast at the lodge and depart for **Lake Baringo** via **Kisima** and **Loruk**.

Arrive at the lake shore and check in at the camp.

Have lunch and in the afternoon, observe a wide variety of birdlife on the lake shore with a guide or opt for an optional boat ride to get a closer look at the aquatic and migratory birds and some crocodiles. Rest of afternoon at leisure.

Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 9 Lake Baringo - Lake Bogoria - Nairobi

Breakfast at the lodge and depart for **Lake Bogoria**

Morning game drive in the reserve which includes visit of the hot springs.

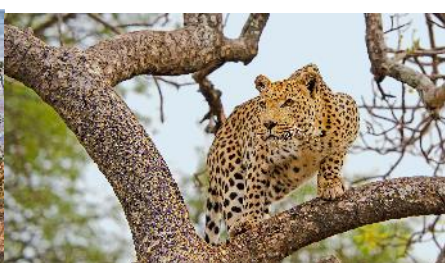
Depart and drive to Nairobi. Lunch stops on the way.

Arrive and drop off at *Jomo Kenyatta International Airport* for your departure flight.

Location and Park Information

Samburu Game Reserves

In the arid North of Kenya, water means life. The waters of the great Ewaso Nyiro river draw wildlife in great numbers to its banks, creating an oasis of green. This river flows through three great northern reserves, Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba. This is spectacular country, set against a backdrop of the mighty Mountain Ololokwe. The verdant riverine forest is a stark contrast to the arid thorn studded plains. Samburu is visited by large herds of Elephants, drawn by the promise of water. In the dry season, the elephants use their tusks to dig deep into the dry river beds, unearthing precious water. These waterholes then become a focal point for other game. The Samburu region is the best place to find several endemic Northern species, including Gerenuk, the Reticulated Giraffe, the Somali Ostrich and Grevy's Zebra.



Marsabit National Park

Marsabit National Park is one of Kenya's most remote and least visited national parks. The heart of the park is extensive forest and as such it supports animals that one would not normally find in arid northern Kenya. There are elephant, rhino, lion, leopard, cheetah, buffalo, warthogs, Grevy's Zebra (which is specific to northern Kenya), reticulated giraffe, hyena and antelope. It also has a wealth of rare birds. Lake Paradise is an enchanting spot and a good place to camp, although there are no facilities here. This is also where most of the reserve's water birds hang out.



Lake Turkana

Also known as the Jade Sea, Lake Turkana is an extraordinary sight for someone on an adventure safari to Kenya. The shimmering colours of its surface contrast sharply with the surrounding lunar landscape, comprising of extinct volcanoes and lava beds. The soda lake owes its lovely nickname to algae particles which shift with changes of wind and light, causing Turkana's skin to shift from blue to grey to jade. Turkana is the largest desert lake in the world and the northern-most of Kenya's Rift Valley lakes. Fed by the Omo River in Ethiopia, Turkana has no outlet. As a result of this, its level fluctuates with the river and rainfall in Ethiopia. The area is steeped in prehistoric history and is potentially the locale for man's first upright steps. In 1888 an Austrian explorer came across human skulls and bones in Turkana. Eighty years later Richard Leakey excavated fossil remains that dated back three million years at Koobi Fora. Today the lake is home to some 22 000 crocodiles, hippos and more than 40 different species of fish. There are also large numbers of water birds. To protect the breeding grounds of birds and crocodiles, both Southern and Central Island have been declared national parks. The area also supports snakes, Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffes, and camels.



Maralal

Maralal is a frontier town, the beginning of the Great Northern wilderness and the staging post for many great adventures.

This simple town is a thriving centre for the local Samburu people, and the streets are always busy with camels, passing warriors and traders.

Beyond Maralal lies some of Kenya's most beautiful country. Here the broad arid plains give way to the spectacular Loroghi Hills and the high, wild Matthews ranges. Dry river beds course through this land, and have become the tracks and routes of nomadic camel trains.

The wild country between Maralal and Turkana is ideal for the adventure seeker. Here in these vast empty spaces, there is freedom to explore and lose yourself in the wild.



Lake Baringo

Lake Baringo is, after Lake Turkana, the most northern of the Kenyan Rift Valley lakes, with a surface area of about 130 square kilometres and an elevation of about 970 metres. The lake is fed by several rivers, Molo, Perkerra and Ol Arabel, and has no obvious outlet; the waters are assumed to seep through lake sediments into the faulted volcanic bedrock. It is one of the two freshwater lakes in the Rift Valley in Kenya, the other being Lake Naivasha. It lies off the beaten track in a hot and dusty setting and over 470 species of birds have been recorded there, occasionally including migrating flamingos. A Goliath heronry is located on a rocky islet in the lake known as Gibraltar.

