

## **African Safari – The Greatest Wildlife Adventure Credit Documentation**

Date: Last week of May – First 2 weeks June 2022

6 graduate credits Cost: \$7355 approximately . Without credit. \$7100. Approximately

Does not include flight to Nairobi.

This price is based upon 10 people on the safari. If we have more, the price will be lowered. Please spread the word. The way for us to protect this incredible habitat and all of these animals is to provide an income for the people of Kenya and Tanzania. Our safari is supporting the guides, the safari lodges, all of the people who work in them, infrastructure like gas stations and restaurants. Ecotourism provides work for the people and habitat for the animals of East Africa. We will travel in safari vehicles where each person will have a window seat. The top lifts up to allow us to stand up for better viewing and photography.

We will fly into Nairobi, Kenya where our wildlife adventure will begin and be met at the airport by our local guides, who will take us to a Nairobi Hotel to spend the night.

Day 1: Early in the morning, our guides will pick us up at the hotel, give us a brief cultural tour of Nairobi, and begin our drive to Samburu National Park. Samburu rests in the shadow of the mighty volcano, Mt. Kenya, which is a product of the African Rift Zone. Along the way, we will study maps of Africa, the rift and the volcanoes, lakes and the Red Sea which are all formed as a result of the plate tectonic movement along the Rift Zone. The African Rift Zone is a divergent plate boundary that is splitting the Arabian Plate away from the African plate and forming the Red Sea. Along its borders, numerous volcanoes, including Mt. Kenya and Kilimanjaro form and many lakes fill in the lowered land areas. We will also drive through many small Kenyan villages, which will be a cultural lesson for us. Many people in Sub Saharan Africa do not have access to clean drinking water and walk for many miles every day to collect water from streams, rivers, lakes and mud holes. The lack of clean water is a huge precursor to disease. Clean water – so many of us take it for granted; so many people on Earth struggle to find it. Ecotourism is paving the way for many villages to have the resources to dig wells and build health clinics and provide an education for the children.

Samburu National Park, in the shadow of Mt. Kenya, has amazing diversity and a species of both zebra and giraffe that we won't see throughout the rest of our journey. The Grevy's Zebra and the Reticulated Giraffe both live in Samburu. After our arrival in Samburu, we will check into our safari lodge and then spend the afternoon and evening on a game drive. Equipped with a safari vehicle where each person has a window and the roof elevates to allow standing and unobstructed photography and equipped with extremely knowledgeable local guides, we will begin our study of the biodiversity and ecology of Kenya. During my safari, I took 10,000 photos, including 125 species of birds, dozens of species of antelope, many elephants, giraffes, zebras, wildebeests, leopards, lions, cheetahs, rhinos and hippos. Most of the animals are found within the protected national parks, where armed guards try hard to protect them from poachers and the tourist income pays for the parks and the employees.

The pattern of our days will be that we eat a very early and delicious breakfast at the lodge and then spend the morning on game drives in whatever National Park we are touring. We then will have a few

hours break for lunch and an early afternoon rest and then depart once again on game drives in the evening. Since we are near the equator, our dinner will be served after dark back at the safari lodges. Most animals are most active near dawn and dusk and rest during the heat of the day, so we will also follow their patterns. During most days, we will be on game drives learning about the ecology, geology and biology of the local habitat for about 4 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the afternoon.

The following is our list of the national parks that we will tour in both Kenya and Tanzania along with highlights of each site.

### **Itinerary Outline Melanie Phelps 2018**

Day 1: Arrival Nairobi (**Sarova Stanley hotel**)

Day 2: Nairobi- Samburu game reserve (**Ashnil Samburu camp**)

Day 3: Samburu game reserve (**Ashnil Samburu camp**)

Day 4: Samburu- Ol Pajeta conservancy (**Sweetwaters tented camp**)

Day 5: Ol Pajeta full day exploring this rhino sanctuary

Day 6: Ol Pajeta to lake Nakuru National Park

Day 7: Lake Nakuru – Maasai mara game reserve

Day 8: Masai Mara game reserve

Day 9: Masai Mara game reserve

Day 10: Serengeti National Park

Day 11: Serengeti National Park

Day 12: Serengeti National Park

Day 13: Serengeti National Park to Ngorongoro Crater

Day 14: Ngorongoro Crater

Day 15: Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha

Day 16: Arusha – Amboseli National Park. We will visit an elementary school in Arusha.

Day 17: Amboseli National Park

Day 18: Amboseli National Park – Tsavo West National Park

Day 19: Tsavo West National Park

Day 20: Tsavo West – Tsavo East National Park

Day 21: Tsavo East National Park

Day 22: Tsavo East - Nairobi

Day 4: Olpajeta Conservancy is a fenced and heavily guarded conservation area with the main objective of protecting Rhinos from being poached and helping their populations recover.

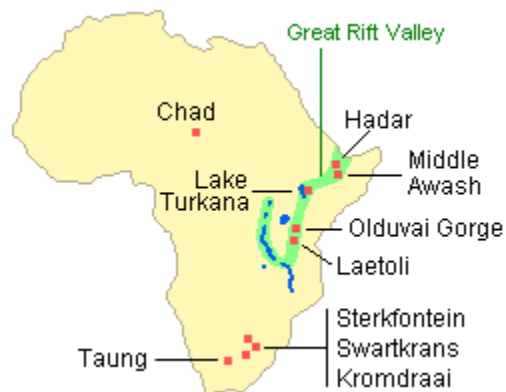
Although there are many other animals that live at Ol Pajeta, rhinos are their many concern.

This may be the only place on our safari that we will be able to see rhinos. Their horns, which

are made of chitin – the same material as fingernails are being sold for extravagant amounts of money to eastern markets as aphrodisiacs. The rhinos are guarded 24 hours a day by rangers with machine guns to protect them. The watering hole at Ol Pajeta, which is near the lodge is a spectacular place to watch rhinos and other wildlife come to drink.

Day 5: Lake Nakuru is a lake formed by divergent plates that create a low area that fills with water. Usually the lake is pink with thousands of flamingos, but the area is also home to Crowned Cranes, elephants, leopards, many species of antelope, water buffalo etc. The abundance of wildlife in this spectacular area only adds to the fascinating geology.

These lakes are also formed along the East African Rift Zone as the plates move apart. Not only are they spectacular wildlife areas, but they are also highly researched and valued as fossil sites for early hominids in Africa.



[http://anthro.palomar.edu/hominid/australo\\_1.htm](http://anthro.palomar.edu/hominid/australo_1.htm)

“The Kenya Lake system is a key location on the [West Asian-East African Flyway](#), a route followed by huge numbers of birds in their annual migration from breeding grounds in the north to wintering places in Africa. The lands around the lakes include large populations of black rhino, Rothschild's giraffe, greater kudu, lion, cheetah and wild dogs. The Kenya Lake system is surrounded by the steep escarpment of the Rift Valley, which provides a spectacular backdrop.” <sup>[16]</sup> Wikipedia

Days 7-13 Masai Mara and Serengeti National Parks. This park system is called the Masai Mara in Kenya but continues over the border in Tanzania as the Serengeti. The Masai Mara contains 1510 km<sup>2</sup> of reserve combined with the Serengeti at 14,763 km<sup>2</sup>, this area is one of the largest and most famous game reserves in the world and is home to the massive migrations of wildebeest and zebras. Our tour will be right at the beginning of the migration season, so we will see the animals massing up and starting to move. We will also see the predators following closely along.



Photo that I took in Masai Mara – “The Eyes of a Leopard”

Day 14-15: “ **Ngorongoro Crater**, extinct volcanic [caldera](#) in the [Eastern \(Great\) Rift Valley](#), northern [Tanzania](#). It lies 75 miles (120 km) west of the town of Arusha. The caldera measures between 10 and 12 miles (16 and 19 km) across and has an area of 102 square miles (264 square km). Its heavily forested rim rises 2,000 feet (610 metres) above the caldera’s floor to an elevation of 7,500 feet (2,286 metres). Ngorongoro is thought to have formed about 2.5 million years ago from a large active volcano whose cone collapsed inward after a major eruption, leaving the present vast, unbroken caldera as its chief remnant.” Encyclopedia Britannica

The fascinating feature of the crater is the vast numbers and species of animals that have found their way up the steep walls of the caldera and climbed into the crater to find a wonderful habitat. Ngorongoro Crater is both a geologic wonder and a wildlife sanctuary and has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 16-17: We will visit the tiny Park of Arusha both to see the thousands of flamingos that cover the lake in pinkness, but also to spot the rare Colobus Monkeys that cajole through the deep rainforest habitat.

Onward to Amboseli National Park which is a magical watery habitat for the hundreds of elephants that wade through its numerous wetlands. The not so magical fact is that Amboseli is currently a lush wetland only because the glaciers on nearby Kilimanjaro are melting so rapidly. Here we will have ample opportunities to discuss climate change and the changing habitats that it is creating even at the equator. Elephants are often in water half way up their chests and baby elephants are often seen with only the tip of their trunk still dry where they were completely submerged except for their trunk snorkel.

Day: 18-21: Tsavo West and Tsavo East: Fascinating volcanic geology awaits us in these two National Parks, as well as a much drier habitat. The wildlife come into watering holes that are easily visited by us as well as many hundreds of giraffes, lions, gazelles, elephants, baboons, cheetahs, etc.

Day 22: We will journey back to Nairobi, overwhelmed with our wonderful safari experience and thousands of photographs.

Option: Some people may want to extend their trip to trek to see Mountain Gorillas in Uganda.