



Northern Tribes and lake Turkana

KENYA



10 days

23 August - 1 September 2024

English speaking tour leader

The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- Safari in **Samburu Park** in search of the "special 5"
- The dances of the **Samburu warriors**
- Crossing the **Chalbi desert** and meeting the **Rendille nomads** and **Gabbara shepherds**
- **Lake Turkana** and the brave **El Molo fishermen**
- The **Nabuyatom crater**, with its green alkaline waters and colonies of pink flamingos
- The earrings and flashy necklaces of **Turkana** women
- **Pokot** herders' villages scattered across the savannah
- Safari in **Nakuru Park**, famous for its rhinos



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Along Kenya's off-the-beaten-track tracks, encountering ethnic groups with unspoilt traditions, crossing the Chalbi desert to the dazzling beauty of Lake Turkana and the Nabuyatom crater.

A journey back in time, discovering one of the country's lesser-known faces: from the savannahs of the Samburu warriors, which skirt the slopes of the snow-capped peaks of Mount Kenya, rich in wildlife, to the dromedary caravans of the Rendilles, which cross the arid expanses of the Chalbi desert, from the log-carved boats of the El Molo which ply the shores of Lake Turkana inhabited by colonies of flamingos, to the rich ornaments of the Turkana and Pokot women, to the imposing monument of black lava rock of the Nabuyatom volcano, reflected in the emerald pools of its alkaline waters.



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Day 1: Friday 23 August

Outward flight/Nairobi

Flight to Nairobi. On arrival meeting with the Kanaga Africa Tours staff who will arrange transfer to Acacia Tree Lodge or similar, overnight in a double room with en-suite facilities.

Day 2: Saturday 24 August

Nairobi/Samburu Park

After breakfast we depart north, passing through Kenya's chaotic capital. En route we will stop at Nanyuki to see the exact point where the equator line passes, and for a view (clouds permitting) of the white peaks of Mount Kenya, which at 5,199 metres above sea level is the second highest peak on the African continent after Kilimanjaro. Lunch box on the way. In the early afternoon, we arrive in SAMBURU PARK (adjacent to the Buffalo Springs National Reserve and the Shaba National Reserve), one of the country's most impressive protected areas, both in terms of the quantity and diversity of wildlife and the splendid landscapes. Apart from the big cats, always very shy, and the Maasai giraffe, the real attraction of the park are the 'special 5', animals that are only found in this park: the Grevy's zebra, the reticulated giraffe, the Somali ostrich, the gazelle-giraffe and the fringed-eared oryx. End of safari at sunset time, accommodation at Samburu Simba lodge or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with en-suite facilities.



Reticulated giraffe in Samburu



Samburu Village



Samburu Woman

Day 3: Sunday 25 August

Samburu/Marsabit Park

At dawn, after a quick breakfast, safari in the park in search of, among others, elephants watering along the banks of the Ewaso Ngiro River. Return to the lodge for breakfast and onwards. Leaving the reserve, near Archer's Post, we will take a dirt road that will lead us towards the semi-nomadic camps of the SAMBURU or Lokop shepherds. They are a Nilotic group dedicated to raising zebu, sheep, goats and dromedaries, closely related to the Maasai, and they speak a very similar language. Here we will visit a manyatta, a group of circular huts built of wood, mud and cow dung, and admire the women's striking necklaces, made of coloured beads sewn onto leather, and the copper bracelets on their wrists and ankles. We will watch dances and, with a bit of luck, may even meet the Samburu warriors.



Samburu Warrior



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Day 3: Sunday 25 August

Samburu/Marsabit Park

Continuation northwards, lunch box. Arrival at the MARSABIT PARK, a mountain oasis within a vast desert area, where we will follow the path that will lead us to sight beautiful lakes set in the vegetation, as well as, with a bit of luck, zebras, buffaloes and elephants. As we approach the town of Marsabit, we will meet along the way the women of the BORANA WOMEN, recognisable by their brightly coloured veils. Accommodation at the Jirime Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight in a double room with services.



Marsabit Park



Rendille Camp

Day 4: Monday 26 August

Marsabit/Kalacha/Loiyangalani

After breakfast we will head north along the arid expanses of the Kasiut Desert, dotted with acacias and inhabited by the RENDILLE semi-nomads, belonging to the Eastern Cushitic branch, who are mainly camel herders. We visit a gob, i.e. an encampment consisting of groups of round huts, covered with mats and skins, and enclosures for animals. Crossing the CHALBI DESERT*, where there was once a salt lake, to reach the Kalacha oasis. Visit to the cathedral, with its naive paintings, and the watering place for the dromedaries. Lunch box. Continuation to TURKANA (or Rodolfo) LAKE, the world's largest permanent reservoir in a desert area and the largest alkaline lake. Late afternoon arrival in Loiyangalani, accommodation at Hotel Oasis Lodge or similar. Dinner and overnight stay in double rooms with services.



Along desert tracks

**If track conditions permit it.*

Day 5: Tuesday 27 August

Loiyangalani/Gas/Loiyangalani

After breakfast, we depart for GAS, where we visit an olla (village) of the GABBRA or Galla TRIBE, also belonging to the eastern Cushitic branch and dedicated to pastoralism, but part of the large Oromo family. Famous for their solidarity and hospitality, they are dedicated to breeding dromedaries, which they use both for transporting goods and for meat and milk. Lunch in a traditional house. In the afternoon, we return to the shores of the lake where we visit a village of the EL MOLO TRIBE, of eastern Cushitic origin (although some scholars consider them to belong to the Nilotic-Camitic group) devoted exclusively to artisanal fishing.



Gabbra family



Camels at the watering hole



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Day 5: Tuesday 27 August

Loiyangalani/Gas/Loiyangalani

Walking along the village, we visit the simple huts made of dum palm leaves, meeting the brave men returning from fishing, which is only done with a raft made of three dum palm poles, rope nets and a harpoon for hunting crocodiles and hippos (protected species, which nowadays are hunted on a limited basis and only at certain times of the year, for ritual purposes - the hippo is considered the 'god of the lake'). Their diet is based on perch and tilapia, the two most common species of fish in the lake, which the women smoke or cut into strips to dry in the sun. This is followed by a visit to the 'desert museum', which presents an exhibition dedicated to the history, geology, flora and fauna of the lake region, as well as everyday objects of the different ethnic groups living there. Time to relax by the pool at the lodge. Dinner and overnight stay in a double room with services.



El Molo Village



Fisherman on his raft

Day 6: Wednesday 28 August

Lake Turkana

After breakfast, a full day dedicated to visiting LAKE TURKANA by boat*. This large alkaline lake has an area of over 6,000 square kilometres, and is almost entirely within the borders of Kenya (only the northern part, at the delta of the Omo River, is in Ethiopia). It is a closed basin with three outlets: the Omo River, the Turkwel and the Kerio. High evaporation and drought have led to a sharp drop in its water level, but in recent years the situation has reversed, due both to heavy flooding in southern Ethiopia and tectonic movements in the Rift Valley, along which it lies. The lake is occupied by numerous volcanic islands, on whose shores numerous Nile crocodiles can be found (estimated at around 30,000). The NABUYATOM crater is the geological wonder of the area, with its circular caldera, pink pebble beach, black lava flows, flamingo colonies and deep green alkaline waters. Lunch box. Return to Loiyangalani in the afternoon, time at leisure to relax by the pool. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



Nabuyatom Crater



Nabuyatom Landscapes

*Boat excursion on Lake Turkana

The boat excursion is subject to weather conditions, especially the wind, which is very strong in this area, creating real waves on the lake and making navigation dangerous. Since this activity cannot be guaranteed in advance, payment for it will be made on site to the accompanying person in Euro, but the reservation must be made when registering for the trip, in order to guarantee a place on the boat (at Loiyangalani there is currently only one motorboat operating with a maximum capacity of 6 people plus crew). If there are more requests, two rounds of visits can be organised (on the same or different days). If the excursion is not possible, Kanaga Africa Tours will offer alternative visits and activities in the lake area for this free day.



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Day 7: Thursday 29 August

Loiyangalani/South Horr/Maralal

After breakfast, visit a village of the TURKANA ETHNIC GROUP, of Nilotic branch, traditionally shepherds and ruthless warriors (but in recent times also dedicated to fishing). The Turkana live in huts made of wood, animal skins and dum palm leaves. They believe in the spirits of ancestors and in a god, called Akuj, on whom rain depends, an essential element for survival, as it determines the abundance of pastures and plants. Polygamous, they are easily recognisable by the necklaces worn by the women (the number is an indication of the wealth of the family) and the 'leaf' earrings. Continue to Maralal, passing through Africa's largest wind farm and the town of South Horr, inhabited mainly by the Samburu. Lunch box on the way. Before arriving at the hotel, we will stop at the LOSIOLO ESCARPMENT, which offers one of the most spectacular views of the Rift Valley. Accommodation at Maralal safari lodge or similar, dinner and overnight in a double room with services.



Climbing the Nabuyatom



Turkana women

Day 8: Friday 30 August

Maralal/Nakuru

Breakfast at the lodge, during which we can admire the fauna present in the park (zebras, warthogs, monkeys, etc.). Depart for Lake Baringo, passing through the Mugie Conservancy, a protected area bordering the main road where, with a bit of luck, it will be possible to encounter elephants. Lunch box lunch. Visit to a POKOT village, a Nilotic group present in this part of Kenya and in the Karamoja region of Uganda. Devoted to pastoralism and agriculture, they live in oval huts of wood and thatch in the savannah. We are amazed at the women's accessories, in particular the large circular necklaces. Continue to Nakuru, accommodation at Punda Milia Camp, dinner and overnight in a double room with private facilities.



Elephant, Mugie Conservancy



Elder Pokot



Pokot decoration



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Day 9: Saturday 31 August

Nakuru/Nairobi

Early in the morning, after breakfast, safari to NAKURU PARK, a protected area surrounding the lake of the same name, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This park is famous for its high concentration of birds, including flamingos, pelicans and waders, but especially for the presence of numerous rhinoceroses and Rothschild's giraffes. Afterwards, depart for Nairobi, along a busy road, with stops for lunch at a local restaurant and to admire the escarpment, the viewpoint over the Rift Valley. Arrival in the capital, rooms in day use on request. Dinner is available at the renowned Carnivore restaurant, for a meat feast (in addition to beef, lamb, chicken and turkey, specialities such as ostrich meatballs and roast crocodile are served). Transfer to the airport in time for your return flight, end of services.



Flamingo in Nakuru Park



Rhinos in Nakuru Park

Day 10: Sunday 01 September

Nairobi/Return Flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



[Check out the video 'Kenya: Northern Ethnicities and Lake Turkana'](#)
[made by Kanaga Africa Tours](#)



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English speaking tour leader

Individual participation fee in double room (min. 4/max. 12 pax)

2,990 €/pax

**in promotion at € 2,890
for booking before 24/05/2024**

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room: **360 €**
- Exc. Nabuyatom: **720 €/boat** (max. 6 pax)
- Nakuru excursion (min. 2 pax): **150 €/pax**
- Day use: **100 €/room**
- Carnivore Restaurant Dinner: **50 €/pax**
- Lamu Archipelago extension: **on request**
- Nairobi, Masai Mara, Watamu extensions: **on request**
- Kenya visa service: **90 €/pax**

The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader (6 to 12 pax);
- English-speaking local drivers/guides;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- The visit of the ethnic groups mentioned in the itinerary (including photo and video rights);
- Entrances to Samburu and Marsabit parks;
- All transfers in 4x4 Toyota safari cars or similar (max 6 clients/car), including diesel;
- Full board meals as specified in the itinerary, except in Nairobi;
- 8 overnight stays as mentioned in the itinerary;
- Flying Doctors' service for emergency evacuation coverage.

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Kenya;
- Cancellation/health/baggage/covid. insurance;
- Possible PCR tests;
- Air flights;
- Photo and video tips not included in the itinerary;
- The boat excursion on Lake Turkana;
- The excursion to Nakuru Park;
- Possible day use in Nairobi;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- Possible meals in Nairobi;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in 'the fee includes'.