Land of the Maasai & The Big Five
For your safari, we’ve chosen spectacular national parks and conservation areas that manifest the great diversity of wildlife and habitat found in East Africa:

In Tanzania:

**Ngorongoro National Conservation Area** spans over 3,100 square miles including highland plains, grasslands, forests, and the world’s largest unbroken caldera. With a depth of 1,800 feet and an area covering more than 100 square miles, the Crater provides a natural sanctuary for lion, leopard, cheetah, zebra, wildebeest, elephant, giraffe, hippo, and several species of antelope and the large soda lake attracts more than 100 species of birds including Crowned Cranes and Kori Bustards.

**Tarangire National Park**: Tarangire is one of the country’s best-kept secrets. Acacia woodland, bush and open savannah supported by underground aquifers and bisected by the Tarangire River provide year-round sanctuary for Tanzania’s densest population of elephants and three greatly endangered species: fringe-eared oryx, greater kudu, and Ashy Starling as well as wild dog, lion, leopard, and cheetah.

“To witness that calm rhythm of life revives our worn souls and recaptures a feeling of belonging to the natural world. No one can return from the Serengeti unchanged, for tawny lions will forever prowl our memory and great herds throng our imagination.”

George Schaller (American conservationist and author)
In Kenya:

**Amboseli National Park**: Amboseli is Africa’s most scenic national park. Mount Kilimanjaro dominates the landscape here and provides an endless supply of water to an otherwise semi-arid landscape. Underground aquifers bubble up through the lava-strewn plains to produce spring-fed swamps and marshlands which support a spectacular diversity of wildlife. Perhaps best known for up-close encounters with its tremendous population of elephants, the park is also home to wildebeest, buffalo, zebra, giraffe, antelope, lion, cheetah, wild dog, hyena, black rhino, hippo, crocodile, and more than 420 bird species.
The Great Rift Valley: 25-30 million years ago, tectonic shifting triggered the creation of a great depression stretching over 4,000 miles from Jordan to Malawi. In the process, a series of freshwater and alkaline lakes were formed which now encompass an area of great biodiversity:

Lake Nakuru National Park: Despite its small size, this park has a big reputation; an alkaline lake bearing the same name produces a large bloom of blue-green algae when waters are low. The algae attract millions of flamingos often giving the shoreline a pink shimmer. The park is also a sanctuary for the Great White Pelican and Kenya’s largest population of wild rhinos which are often seen around the shores of the lake.

Lake Naivasha National Park: Naivasha hosts several remarkable wildlife attractions. The lake itself covers 54 square miles with a lush fringe of papyrus and yellow bark acacia supporting a dense population of hippos and more than 400 bird species. At the deepest part of the lake is Crescent Island Wildlife Sanctuary, home to wildebeest, waterbuck, giraffe, zebra, and gazelle as well as Great White Pelican, African Fish Eagle, kingfisher, and ibis.
Maasai Mara National Reserve: Undoubtedly the most iconic wildlife destination in the world, the Maasai Mara National Reserve flows openly to Tanzania’s Serengeti National Park to form the Serengeti or Endless Plain in the language of the Maasai people. Covering nearly 12,000 square miles of unobstructed conservation area, it hosts the largest land migration in the world. More than 2 million wildebeest, zebra, antelope, and Cape buffalo make a circular trek following the life-giving rains that bring mineral-rich grasses.
Exploring Tanzania and Kenya in November

East Africa conjures images of vast herds of wild-eyed beasts crowding the river’s edge attempting to leap above the rushing waters and snapping jaws of giant crocodiles below. This image has been used so often to describe the world’s largest terrestrial migration that one forgets the true nature of what drives the more than 2 million zebra, wildebeest, antelope, and their predators from the southern reaches of the Serengeti north into the Maasai Mara and then back again in a circular journey that never really ends.

If there is a beginning to this cycle, then it must be in the southern corridor where herbivores (such as wildebeest) mate and give birth (Dec-Mar), for the short mineral-rich grasses offer ideal grazing and wide views over the savannah where predators can easily be sighted. But when the rains stop (Apr/May), the landscape becomes arid, and the grasses are gone, it is time to move to winter grazing. Far to the north, in the Maasai Mara, the beasts remain near the permeant waters of the Mara and Grumeti rivers waiting for the rains to begin again (Nov). It is impossible to predict the day or even week when the rains will return and while we cannot guarantee that you will see the massive herds crossing the river, you may see their progression, all in a line filling the horizon as they make their way south.

Supplementing your program are parks such as Tarangire, the Rift Valley Lake District, and Amboseli whose permeant water sources host great diversity and large populations of iconic wildlife year-round. With or without the crossing, the wildebeest, zebra, antelope, elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, and more will cover the landscape that surrounds you.
Your Naturalist: Albert Mitcho Karisa

Your Professional Naturalist, Albert Mitcho Karisa is one of the best and most experienced guides currently leading tours in East Africa. Always ready to pass on his knowledge in combination with a vibrant sense of humor, travelers comment that “Albert makes learning about the animals, environment, and culture an especially fun experience.”

A native of Rwanda, he has led trips to Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Congo, Morocco, and France. His birding abilities are unequaled and his expertise with photography will help you get that perfect picture. His unbounded energy stems from his long-distance running, and his interests include herbal medicine and the cultures of Africa. Albert’s passionate nature and buoyant personality make him the perfect ambassador for Africa.
Your journey begins as you board your overnight flight to Arusha. Meet your guide, Albert on arrival and transfer to your hotel.
The Four Points by Sheraton Arusha offers a tranquil respite in luxury accommodations. Ensuite rooms are air-conditioned with garden views.
Travel in 4x4 Land Rovers. These sturdy vehicles are limited to just 6 passengers, guaranteeing space, comfort, and a window seat for each guest.

The photo roof offers 360° views and protection from sun and rain.
## Typical Daily Schedule On Safari

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Wake up call. Light breakfast consisting of coffee, tea and snacks may be served.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Depart on a game drive, returning approximately 9:00 am.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Full American breakfast will be served, which consists of a large selection of cereal, fruit, eggs, bacon etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch is served (most likely in a buffet style). From now until afternoon game drive, your time is at leisure to read or relax.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Depart on an afternoon game viewing activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Return to camp from third game drive before dark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner is served (sit down style)</td>
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* On travel days, you begin with a full breakfast, followed by a drive to your next destination. Usually, this drive is not more than 4 hours in length. You arrive at your next lodge in time for lunch and your day's schedule continues as noted previously.
Leaving Arusha behind, your first stop will be at the village of Mto Wa Mbu. Surrounded by verdant fields of cultivated rice, beans, and bananas, Mto Wa Mbu has seen unprecedented growth in the last decade but with the melding of more than 120 different ethnic tribes, it still retains the feel of a traditional African village. During your time here, tour the village, farm, and market, visit a youth art project and the Makonde carver’s workshop, and try some banana beer.
Afterward, enjoy a traditional Tanzanian lunch under banana trees in the heart of the village.
A short drive and you arrive at the Ngorongoro Farm House.

Set atop a hill in the highlands, this 500-acre coffee plantation offers spectacular views of the Oldeani Volcano and a true farm-to-table (and coffee mug) experience.
In the morning you enter the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. More than 3,100 square miles include highland plains, savanna, woodlands, forests, and the world’s largest caldera. Explore this natural wonderland where you may encounter more than 110 mammal and 500 bird species, and the semi-nomadic Maasai pastoralists who have tended their families and cattle here for more than 100 years.
The next day, descend to the crater floor, a UNESCO site of Global Importance for Biodiversity. Visitors to this spectacular oasis can appreciate its beauty at first sight and its special designation in a single day, where it is possible to encounter all of Africa’s “Big Five.”

With a depth of 1,800 feet, the high-steep walls of the crater provide the perfect sanctuary for the Rhino Conservation Project. Through translocation efforts (1997 and 2001), monitoring, and diligent protection against poachers, the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority report a slowly increasing population of highly endangered Black Rhino inside the crater.
Once a massive supervolcano, Ngorongoro began to collapse 1- to 2-million years ago leaving behind the world’s largest intact caldera. Over time, perennial springs and two major streams created an extensive system of wetlands.

Within the crater is Magadi, a shallow alkaline lake covering seven square miles and producing mineral-rich grasses and blue-green algae that attracts thousands of flamingos while the large natural springs host hippos, great bull elephants, and lions too.
In this highly protected environment, the animals are not disturbed by the presence of safari vehicles. Expert drivers and guides use non-invasive techniques allowing wildlife to approach the vehicles for up-close encounters.
November is the best time for birding in the crater; the number of species swells to more than 500 with the arrival of migrants and many endemic species are mating.
Continue to Tarangire National Park, a world hotspot for ungulates (hoofed mammals). Though many species are permanent residents of the park, Tarangire hosts its own seasonal migration. At the start of the short rains (Nov), thousands of wildebeests and zebra begin their northward migration through the Tarangire-Manyara corridor.
Located in the Tarangire-Manyara Migratory Corridor, Maramboi Tented Camp offers extraordinary views of the Rift Valley in a wildlife-rich private concession.

All tents have private verandas and ensuite bathrooms. View wildlife from your room or one of the public sun decks, the lounge, or the swimming pool.
Known as the Tree of Life, the baobab is a common sight in Tarangire National Park where large herds of elephants use its bark to sharpen their tusks and feed on its edible seeds. Its distinctive shape is formed by the storage of more than 250 gallons of water in its swollen trunk.
Never far from the herds, predators such as lions, cheetah, and jackals are ever-present. Though rarely seen, leopards and wild dogs are also resident in Tarangire.
Tarangire is best known for the largest population of elephants in northern Tanzania, now numbering close to 3,500 individuals.
The park is also known for its large population of birds. Over 300 species have been recorded in Tarangire, some of which include:

- **Yellow-collared Lovebird**
- **Yellow-breasted Apalis**
- **Bateleur Eagle**
Travel north to the border town of Namaga and after a few formalities, you have arrived in the Republic of Kenya. Continue to Amboseli National Park, at the foot of Kilimanjaro.

The name “Amboseli” comes from the Maasai word meaning salty dust. Despite this forbidding moniker, it is one of the best places in Africa to view large herds of elephants up close.
Enjoy your stay at The ‘Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge’ which is situated amidst giant Acacia Trees and legendary wildlife set in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro.
In the dry volcanic basin of the park is Lake Amboseli, a shallow seasonal lake that comes alive when the rains arrive attracting thousands of resident- and migratory birds.
Elsewhere in the park wildlife gather at natural springs that provide a permanent source of water from underground aquifers fed by runoff from Mount Kilimanjaro.
Giraffe Bull

Gazelle bucks dueling

Yellow Baboon
Journey north and into the Great Rift Valley. This narrow corridor of highland forest, snow-capped mountains, savannas, and a chain of rift lakes includes some of Africa’s most diverse and prolific wildlife.
Stay at Lake Elementeita Serena for the next two nights. This small luxury camp offers gourmet dining, spa treatments, and lake views from private patios. Enjoy your free time on nature trails along the shores of the lake, a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.
Explore Lake Nakuru National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to 450 birds and 56 mammal species including black- and white rhino, Cape Buffalo, zebra, eland, waterbuck, reedbuck, lion, cheetah, leopard, and Rothschild’s giraffe.
While Lesser- and Greater Flamingo may steal the show, watch for some of the other 450 bird species present in Nakuru National Park.
Take a boat tour on Lake Naivasha, one of just two freshwater lakes in the Kenyan Rift Valley system.
At the center of Naivasha, Crescent Island Game Sanctuary offers the perfect opportunity to explore and view wildlife on foot. Giraffe and zebra, several species of antelope, Vervet monkeys, bat-eared fox, silver-backed jackal, and white-tailed mongoose roam free.
Arrive in the Maasai Mara, a vast landscape of incredible abundance. Resident elephants, antelope, and Cape buffalo are joined by migrating herds of wildebeest, zebra, and an escort of cheetahs, leopards, and large prides of lions.
Elevated on a hill in the Mara Triangle, the bungalows of the Serena Safari Lodge offer views over the plains and Mara River in the southern Maasai Mara.
The Kingdom of the Lion

There are an estimated 850-900 lions in the Maasai Mara.

Prides of 15-20 individuals stake their claims and defend their territories. At times, small groups of males band together in a coalition often overtaking weaker prides, their mates, and their territories.
The Mara also has one of the highest concentrations of cheetah on the continent.

The cheetah is the fastest land animal in the world, reaching speeds up to 70 miles per hour. They can accelerate from 0 to 65 miles per hour in just 3 seconds – faster than a Maserati!
A night stalker, the leopard hunts by night and spends its days sleeping in the trees where its spotted coat is easily camouflaged by the foliage.

Pound for pound, the Leopard is one of the strongest of the big cats of Africa. Its powerful neck and shoulder muscles allow it to carry heavy prey into the trees where it cannot be scavenged by hyenas, jackals, or other cats.
Africa is home to 73 out of 86 known species of wild antelope. Large herds can be found throughout the Maasai Mara from the diminutive Kirk’s Dik-Dik (11 lbs.) to the massive, ox-like Common Eland (2,100 lbs.)
The Bat-Eared Fox lives on termites and dung beetles. Its large ears are specialized to detect its prey by sound but also shed heat helping to keep the fox cool.

The Banded Mongoose is a highly sociable animal. Living on the open savannah, they can be found in packs of up to 40 individuals.
Keeping it clean; scavengers, such as vultures, jackals, and hyenas are critical to the health of the Serengeti ecosystem.
Over 450 bird species are found in the reserve including 60 raptors and Kenya’s national bird, the Lilac-breasted Roller.
With an impressive 9 ft. wingspan, the Martial Eagle is the largest predator in the skies above the Maasai Mara. It preys on dik-diks, impala calves, mongoose, and hyrax.

The distinctive Secretary Bird is an unusual raptor of the savannah. It may walk up to 12 miles in a day and only flies when necessary.
You will have an opportunity to float above the reserve in a hot air balloon (at an additional cost). This singular experience offers spectacular views over the plains.
Enjoy a final game drive before departing by light aircraft for your flight to Nairobi.
Transfer to the international airport and bid farewell to this paradise as you fly back home, bringing with you the memories of all the wonderful sights of East Africa.
Return from the Maasai Mara to Nairobi and transfer to your hotel.

Enjoy a night at leisure in the country surroundings of the Residence at Karen.
Depart Nairobi on your morning flight to the Samburu National Reserve. Samburu is known for its rare and endemic species such as Grevy’s zebra, reticulated giraffe, Besia oryx, long-necked gerenuk, and the Somali Ostrich. The reserve also supports lions, elephants, buffalo, hippos, and 450 species of birds.

Proceeds from the reserve support the local communities of Samburu, a tribe known for their remote culture, pastoral, and semi-nomadic way of life.
Spend three nights at the Ashnil Samburu Camp in the Buffalo Springs Reserve. Beneath the shade of Doum Palms on the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River, wildlife can be viewed from the private deck of your tent.
Reticulated Giraffe

Beisa Oryx

Gerenuk

Grevy’s Zebra

Somali Ostrich
The Imperial zebra
Also known as Grevy’s zebra, it is the largest and most endangered of the three species of zebra.
The doum palm is a common site in this semi-arid landscape. These trees can live up to 100 years and produce highly nutritious fruit which helps to sustain resident elephants and baboons.
Crocodiles & hippos share the muddy waters of the Ewaso Nyiro River.
In addition to our two friends above, Samburu is home to over 450 bird species.
Red and Yellow Barbet

Lilac-breasted Roller

Lappet-faced Vulture

White-headed Buffalo Weaver
Samburu is one of the best places in Kenya to see the elusive leopard.
During your stay at Buffalo Springs, meet with people from the local Samburu village.
In the morning, your light aircraft returns you to Nairobi, where it is time to say farewell to fellow explorers and to Africa.
Head home bringing with you all the wonderful memories of your adventure.
## Costs: Per Person, Based On Double Occupancy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Main Tour Based on 15 travelers</th>
<th>Post-Extension to Samburu Based on 10 travelers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Only</td>
<td>$8,795 per person</td>
<td>$3,695 per person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Room Supplement</td>
<td>$1,695 per person, additional</td>
<td>$895 per person, additional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Air from Washington D.C., Economy, including estimated departure taxes &amp; fuel surcharges (Subject to change)</td>
<td>$2,190 per person, additional</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Any more questions?

If you have questions, feel free to contact your Journey Manager, Lori Ellefsen at 718-280-5021, or email her at Lorie@classescapes.com.
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