



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

Kenya - Jade Sea Explorer

Tour Duration – 14 Days



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●○○ | Adventure ●●●●● | Culture ●●●●○ | History ●●●○○ | Wildlife ●●●●●

Tour Pace - Busy

Tour Highlights

- ✓ Explore little visited regions of northern Kenya, home to several ethnic groups
- ✓ Visit the Chalbi Desert where only the toughest species survive
- ✓ Seize the opportunity to see diverse wildlife in Sibiloi National Park and the Rift Valley
- ✓ Admire mighty Lake Turkana, the largest desert lake in the world





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Tour Map - Kenya - Jade Sea Explorer



Tour Essentials

- Accommodation:** Mix of hotels, permanent camps and guesthouses.
Included Meals: Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L) and dinners (D) as shown in the itinerary
Group Size: Maximum 12
Start Point: Nairobi
End Point: Nairobi
Transport: 4WD
Countries: Kenya



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Kenya - Jade Sea Explorer

Kenya has long been one of the most established safari destinations in Africa, a country rich in wildlife that offers some of the best game viewing on the planet. What few people know is that the country is also incredibly diverse, both ethnically and geographically, with landscapes ranging from lush forest to searing desert. On this trip we venture to the little visited northern regions, an arid land home to a number of different ethnic groups including the Samburu, Gabbra, El Moro and Rendille, all of whom adhere to very traditional and unique ways of life. We explore the haunting Chalbi Desert, an ocean of volcanic sand where only the toughest species survive and continue to Sibiloi National Park and the mighty Lake Turkana, the largest desert lake in the world. Here we find the El Molo, who hunt the hippos and giant crocodiles with which they share their home. On our return south, we visit the stunning Rift Valley lakes with their superb wildlife. This tour offers travellers the chance to explore parts of Kenya which see very few visitors, giving a glimpse into ways of life that have not survived in most parts of the world.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Nairobi

Arrive in Nairobi where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax after your flight. Overnight at Hotel Boulevard or similar. No meals are included.

Nairobi

Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, was established at the turn of the century by the Europeans as a storage depot during the building of the East African railway. Without plan or design it established itself as the capital of the British protectorate, and today has a population of around three million people comprising a mixture of Africans, Asians and Europeans. While the predominant tribe is the Kikuyu, the city does not have one single dominant ethnic group. Its accidental choice as capital, located where the territories of three important tribes meet, has been fortunate for the economic growth of the country.

Day 2 – Samburu National Reserve (Approximate driving time: seven hours)

Today we head north to the village of Isiolo. Along the way we encounter nomadic tribes inhabiting the intervening bushland. Wildlife is also in evidence, and species commonly seen include reticulated giraffe, oryx, and long-necked gerenuk antelope. Overnight at Samburu Sentrim Camp or similar. (BLD)

Samburu Tribe

Throughout this region, local Samburu tribespeople can be seen wearing their traditional dress, and ornate jewellery. They are pastoralists, who live to the south and east of Lake Turkana. The social structure is essentially a gerontocracy - rule by elders - assuring the elders first choice among the young unmarried women. Men are usually about 30 by the time they marry, but the women marry at about 17 years of age.

Day 3 – Samburu National Reserve

Wildlife starts the day early. As such, before breakfast we'll be out on a game drive hoping to observe key species. After the main heat of the day has passed, we head out again, tracking the paw prints of lion, leopard and cheetah through dramatic bushveld. At a nearby waterhole we'll watch elephants as they converge to drink, and crocodiles as they lurk in the shadows waiting for an opportunity. Overnight at Samburu Sentrim Camp or similar. (BLD)

Samburu National Reserve

This reserve covers an area of 104km² and lies in the fascinating semi-desert northern frontier area of Kenya. Samburu is famous for its Reticulated Giraffe, Grevy's Zebra and Long Necked Gerenuk, which are frequently



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spotted here, though rarely in the southern parks. Lion and leopard live in the reserve but are not always seen. Crocodiles are present in the Ewaso Nyiro River that flows through the park.

Day 4 – Marsabit National Park (*Approximate driving time: seven hours*)

It's a challenging drive today – over 250km on rough road towards the extinct volcano of Mount Marsabit. The peak is surrounded by lush forested hills, a welcoming oasis rising high above the dry heat of surrounding desert plains. In the afternoon we'll take a guided walk around Lake Paradise in Marsabit National Park, a reserve known for the size of its elephants' tusks. Overnight at Jirime Hotel or similar. (BLD)

Day 5 – Chalbi Desert (*Approximate driving time: five hours*)

This morning we visit Marsabit town, a settlement of around 5,000 inhabitants. We may encounter nomadic Rendille warriors who roam the land wearing their flamboyant traditional dress of purple and red robes, combined with feathers, beads and goat skins. We continue our journey through a landscape of crater lakes and volcanoes, entering the Chalbi Desert's flat plain, formed by an ages-old crater lake which fills during the rains to form an expansive shallow body of water. Kalacha Dida is an oasis on the edge of the desert and a traditional watering place for nomadic tribes, mostly Gabbras. We take a guided walk to meet those hardy people inhabiting this harsh yet abundant environment. Overnight Missionary Guest House or similar. (BLD)

Day 6 – Sibiloi National Park (*Approximate driving time: five hours*)

Although demanding, the journey to Sibiloi National Park's remote and wild plains is well worth the effort. We take an evening game in search of nocturnal wildlife before dinner. Overnight Allia Bay Guesthouse or similar. (BLD)

Please note: *that accommodation here may be a mixture of camping and rooms, as the guesthouse has a limited number of rooms. Those camping will have shared facilities.*

Day 7 – Sibiloi National Park

Today we explore the park, looking out for a variety of species adapted to the arid environment, including gerenuk antelope, oryx, the rare lesser kudu, together with grevy's and burchell's zebra. Carnivores such as hyena, golden jackal, cheetah, lion and other small cats, including caracal, are also present. Overnight Allia Bay Guesthouse or similar. (BLD)

Sibiloi National Park

The National Park which also is a UNESCO world heritage site lies on the North Eastern shores of Lake Turkana, known for its protection of wildlife, birdlife and paleontological sites and fossil remains. The park contains several different types of habitat, from lake shore with water vegetation to arid, desert-like lava rock terrain; savannah plains to riverine forest. We will see sites where fossilized elephant, crocodile, and tortoise have been found while excavating forests. The local museum has exhibits donated by the Leakey family renowned for their studies of fossils and early humans in East Africa.

Days 8-9– Lake Turkana (*Approximate driving time: six hours*)

From the northernmost extent our trip, we head south to the shimmering blue-green hues of Lake Turkana. At Loyangalani, a location for John Le Carre's 'The Constant Gardener' and the subsequent film, we explore the lake shores for exceptionally large Nile crocodiles. Here too we encounter the El Moro people, Kenya's smallest tribe and its last remaining true hunters. Overnight Palm Shade Camp or similar. (BLD)

Lake Turkana

Lake Turkana, also known as the Jade Sea, is the largest desert alkaline lake in the world and supports a complex network of fish, grazing mammals, bird life and predators. The colour of the lake is a result of algae particles, which shift with changes in the wind and light, so that the water surface shifts from blue to grey to extraordinary jade. Its lapping shores extend for 288 kilometres as far as the Ethiopian / Kenyan border and



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its depths reach up to 140m. Said to have originated from either Somalia or Ethiopia, the El Molo reside on the “Island of Ghosts” in villages on the shores of Turkana. They live off the land, hunting water species such as fish, hippo and even the cunning Nile Crocodile.

The El Molo Tribe

El Molo is a tribe that lives along the shores of Lake Turkana on the south-eastern side of the lake. They are the smallest community in Kenya with a population of about 300 people. The name El Molo originated from a the Maasai phrase meaning “those who make a living from sources other than cattle”. The original homeland of El Molo is not clear as some say they came from Somalia while others say that they came from Ethiopia. With the increase in intermarriage between the El Molo, Samburu and Turkana people, there are few who now speak the language of the El Molo, usually the tribe elders.

Loiyangalani Desert Museum

The museum was built on a bluff against a backdrop of Lake Turkana, the “Jade Sea.” The name Loiyangalani means “a place of many trees” in the native Samburu language. It was established in 2008 with the aim of highlighting the unique traditions and cultures of the people of Northern Kenya.

Day 10 – Maralal via Mt. Nyiru (*Approximate driving time: five hours*)

The stony road south traverses lava flows and sand fields as it leads towards the jagged peaks of Mount Nyiru. Despite being surrounded by dry desert the slopes are forested and now form Mount Nyiru Forest Reserve. We stop at the small hillside market town of Maralal, first inhabited by Somali settlers in the 1920s and now dominated by Samburu tribes. In the afternoon we explore surrounding bush where we may see gazelle, zebra and antelope. Overnight Ngari Hill Guesthouse or similar. (BLD)

Day 11 – Lake Baringo (*Approximate driving time: five hours*)

Continuing south, we’re bound for the shores of Lake Baringo. Though fed by several rivers, the surrounding environment is predominantly hot and dusty, making the lake and its islands a magnet for life of all kinds. We take an afternoon guided walk in search of a variety of birdlife. Overnight Baringo Soi Safari Lodge or similar. (BLD)

The route may change subject to road conditions.

Day 12 – Lake Bogoria (*Approximate driving time: one hours*)

We arrive at Lake Bogoria around lunch time, later taking an afternoon game drive. Wildlife includes kudu, impala, grant’s gazelle, cheetah and waterbuck. Overnight Lake Bogoria Resort or similar. (BLD)

Day 13 – Lake Nakuru (*Approximate driving time: two hours*)

The morning we explore the surrounds of Lake Bogoria, admiring thousands of pink flamingos that congregate to feed on the lake during the season. Later, we drive to Lake Nakuru National Park, also renowned for large concentrations of flamingos, but also a sanctuary for endangered black and white rhinos. The reserve has one of the highest densities of wildlife in Africa, and we have excellent chances of spotting lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant and buffalo during an afternoon game drive. Overnight Elementaita Sentrim Lodge or similar. (BLD)

Lake Nakuru

Lake Nakuru is a very shallow strongly alkaline lake, and the area of the park covers the lake and a land strip around the northern, eastern and western shores, and south to Makalia Falls. The shores are surrounded by swamps, which during the driest seasons disappear to give rise to huge white salt crusts. The riverine forest opens up southward to a bush and acacia tree savannah. The eastern and western shores are framed by ridges that offer splendid lookouts over the lake. At the west shore, Baboon Cliffs are the preferred habitat for some of the park’s species, while in the east, a part of Lion Hill is covered by a magnificent Euphorbia, or



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candle tree forest, giving the landscape a prehistoric look. Several hides have been erected near the lake for bird observation, and in addition to birds and Rhinos, the park is home to a large number of mammals, including Lions and Leopards.

Day 14 – Lake Naivasha (*Approximate driving time: three hours*)

Today we return to Nairobi via Lake Naivasha, an area of spectacular scenery with good opportunities for game viewing and birdwatching. We take a boat cruise, searching for hippos, African fish eagles and those animals visiting the lakeshore to drink. In the afternoon we visit Elsamere Conservation Centre, former home of George and Joy Adamson, famous for their lifetime struggle to conserve Kenya's wildlife. We leave Lake Naivasha in the afternoon and drive directly to Nairobi's international airport for onward flights. (B)

Please note: *Departing flights should be booked no earlier than 10pm.*

Tour Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure transfers
Transport throughout in 4WD.
All accommodation as described
Services of an English speaking guide / tour leader
Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)
Entrance / park fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary

Excluded:

International flights
Any airport taxes
Travel Insurance
Visas
Drinks
Tips (discretionary)

Important Information

Foreign Office Travel Warnings

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At the time of writing the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not advise against travel to any of the areas within Kenya that we visit on our tours. Please feel free to contact us should you have any specific concerns or if you would like to know in detail what measures are being taken to ensure visits remain trouble free and without incident.

It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.

Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation Rating

At Undiscovered Destinations we know our travellers prefer to stay in comfortable, accommodation, and on this tour you can expect rooms to be en-suite, with private bathroom and when necessary air-conditioning will



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be provided. The exception is in Sibilo National Park, where those who are camping will have shared facilities. In general you will find your hotel has a restaurant and/or bar.

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals. One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.

It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis please contact us.

We welcome solo travellers and single rooms will be allocated subject to the applicable tour supplement. Please note that on occasions you may not always be allocated a double or twin room, as some hotels have designated single rooms. These may be smaller in size. However, the supplement payable takes this into consideration.

Food & Drinks

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch and dinner (D). Please note that lunch may be a picnic. Drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner \$10- \$30

Drinks

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Bottle of beer \$3

Bottle of Water \$1.5



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Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Tipping is common practise in Africa. If your local guide has been helpful then you could think about tipping. The accepted amount for tipping in Kenya is between \$5-10 per day for your tour leader and around \$3-5 for game rangers or local guides who may accompany you for game drives and walks.

Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: ATM machines can be found in most major towns

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are not widely accepted

Local Currency: Kenyan shilling (Ksh)

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollars

Where to Exchange: Your tour guide will advise you

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme. Please contact us if you would like a quote.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive an airport transfer, both on arrival and departure include in the tour price. In order that the transfer can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available. Please advise the date, time and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday.

Visa Information

UK nationals may apply for their visas in advance of arrival in Kenya via the e-visa portal <http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>, or at the embassy in London. There is also the option to purchase a visa on arrival at the airport in Nairobi although you may be subject to long queues.

For other nationals you should check with your nearest embassy.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to the UK.

We strongly advise that your passport contains a minimum of two blank pages, as this may be a requirement of the local immigration authorities. In addition certain countries will stipulate that the two blank pages are opposite each other. If you are unable to meet these requirements you may be refused boarding by your airline or denied entry by the immigration authorities.



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For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.

Vaccinations & Protection

As with travel to most parts of Africa, we strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice and the necessary vaccinations. For a visit of less than one month, almost certainly you will be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Meningitis. Anti-malaria medication may also be required and the use of a DEET-containing insect repellent is highly recommended.

In addition, if you are arriving from another African country you will require a Yellow Fever Certificate.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on [best practice when travelling with medicines](#). For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

Preparing for your tour

Climate

The north of Kenya receives little rainfall and so can be visited all year round.

Clothing

When it comes to clothing it is usually recommended that lighter clothes are worn through the day, and warmer ones at night. A hat is also advised to be worn through the day to protect from the sun.

Equipment

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared: adequately immunized, with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit. Suncream/sunblock is a must. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will also be useful to have. As our tours in Kenya involve camping, a torch (flashlight) is essential.

Footwear

Footwear is a main priority on this tour. Comfortable walking shoes/boots are recommended.

Luggage on tour

Your luggage should not exceed 20kgs (44lbs). One large suitcase/rucksack, and one small hand luggage rucksack is acceptable.

Electric Supply & Plugs

Electrical supply is 220V/50 Hz and plugs usually have two round pins.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These notes were updated 10th December 2019.