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Valid for departures: From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022

RCGS: CLASSIC KENYA SAFARI WITH SCOTT FORSYTH

No country, perhaps, is more synonymous with a classic African safari than Kenya. Step into scenes from 'Out of Africa' accompanied by renowned RCGS Photographer-in-Residence, Scott Forsyth. An innate curiosity of the natural world combined with his passion for landscapes has made him the perfect host on this adventure through the best of Kenya. Scott will be on-hand to help you capture the beauty of Kenya's wildlife and dramatic scenery through the lens of your camera.

Head out into Lake Nakuru National Park in search of white rhinos and elusive leopards. Cruise along Lake Naivasha on a boat ride past hippos and brightly colored flamingos. Explore perhaps the most famous ecosystem in the world and observe one of the greatest spectacles of the natural world: The Masai Mara's Great Migration. Watch as millions of wildebeest and zebra crossing a crocodile-infested river on their annual journey through the savannah. You'll even have the option to soar above the action in a sunrise balloon ride over the African plains before heading home with memories to last a lifetime.

Please note: travelers on this tour must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with the last dose having been administered no less than two weeks prior to travel. The total number of doses must have been given, as required by the vaccine manufacturer (in most cases this is two doses).

At a Glance

- 3 nights tented camp and 2 nights lodge and 1 night hotel
- Travel by 4WD safari vehicle
- Group normally 7 to 12 including RCGS guide, plus local leader. Min age 16 yrs
- Countries visited: Kenya

Trip Highlights

- Enjoy 3 days of game viewing in the Masai Mara.
- Witness thousands of wildebeest and zebras make their annual migration.
- Cruise Lake Naivasha on a boat ride.
- Embark on a morning and afternoon game drive in Lake Nakuru National Park, famous for its flamingos and white rhinos.
- Perfect your photography skills with Canadian Geographic Photographer-in-Residence, Scott Forsyth.

Is This Trip for You?

A small group safari in 4WD Toyota Landcruisers with two long drives. Most of the roads are reasonably good, other than the access road from Narok to the Masai Mara (2hrs) and some roads within the national parks. Driving in the reserves can be quite rough and is often on dirt roads. In wet weather driving conditions do become more difficult and a little patience may be required at times.

As well as some very exciting game drives, there is the opportunity for a short nature walk in the Masai Mara. For both animal and bird lovers there are many chances of seeing countless game and birds as well as rare and endangered creatures.

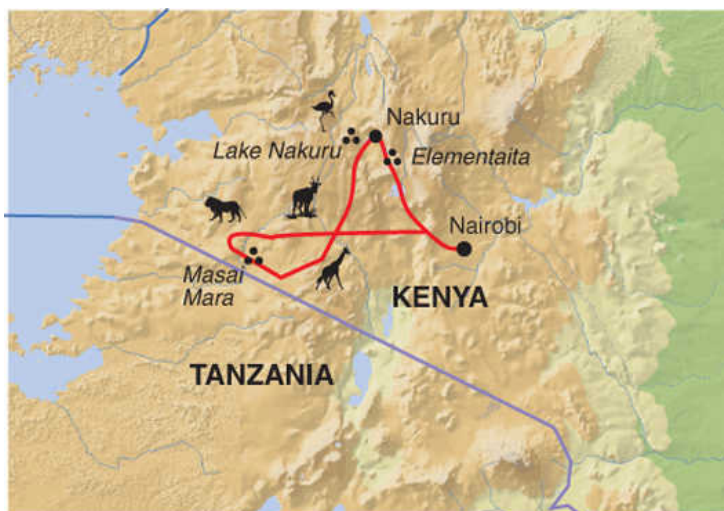
The beginning of the year (Jan- March) brings warmer weather and fewer tourists to the area. From March-April, the rainy season starts offering opportunity for unique sightings like wildebeest and other animals calving in anticipation of the rains.

Group

This trip will be joined by a Royal Canadian Geographical Society Guide plus an experienced Exodus English-speaking local Leader and guides throughout the trip.

Adult min age: 16 **Min group size:** 7 **Max group size:** 12

ITINERARY



Land Only

Start City: Nairobi

End City: Nairobi

Land Only Itinerary

Day 1

Start Nairobi; to Lake Naivasha; optional afternoon nature walk.

This morning all clients should be at Eka Hotel by 7am in Nairobi to commence your tour. It is recommended to either book a flight with a very early morning arrival into Nairobi this morning or alternatively book 1 night pre-tour accommodation at Eka Hotel in order to meet the group at 7am this morning.

After meeting your fellow travellers, local leader and RCGS guide, we then drive north to the edge of the escarpment over the Rift Valley before descending into the valley and to Lake Naivasha, where we will enjoy a boat ride. We will continue for a further 1.5 hours to Lake Elementaita, where we will check into our lodge and enjoy lunch. In the afternoon, there will be an optional (at additional cost) guided nature walk available.

Accommodation: Sunbird Lodge Elementaita or similar

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2

Morning and afternoon game drives in Lake Nakuru N.P.

Early start today for a 30 minute drive to Lake Nakuru National Park. We will enjoy a full day of game drives today, with a packed lunch from our lodge to maximise game viewing time. We hope to see many plains game including gazelle, impala and giraffe and we will also be on the look-out for predators as well as unique bird life.

The national park (285 km sq) is world-renowned for its (dwindling) flamingo population made famous by Denys Finch Hatton's flight over it in the film 'Out of Africa'. Nakuru is also the best place in East Africa for White rhino, and it is not unusual to see at least a dozen in a day. Coupled with this, there is a healthy buffalo population, many other plains game and frequent leopard sightings.

Accommodation: Sunbird Lodge Elementaita or similar

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Days 3-5

Masai Mara.

A long (approx 5hrs including comfort stops), beautiful and bumpy drive to the Mara. We will arrive in the Mara early afternoon, in time for lunch (not included today, for your own account) and check in afterwards. This afternoon we will enjoy the first of several game drives in this remarkable game area, departing at 4 pm. Returning to the lodge for dinner, you can enjoy a relaxed evening in beautiful surroundings.

During time off you can rest in your private tents, the lounge tent or watch game go by from the deck of your tent. If you fancy a lie-in one day or an optional nature walk, this can easily be arranged.

The Masai Mara is one of the most famous ecosystems in the world. This vast grassland is teeming with life; plains game including wildebeest, gazelle, topi, zebra and buffalo abound in the rolling savannah, and never far away lay the predators; cheetah, lion and hyena. Between mid-August to late October one of the greatest spectacles on Earth takes place in the Masai Mara - the annual migration of thousands of wildebeest, gazelle and zebra trampling their way across the long grass. Nothing is guaranteed on safari, but with the help of our brilliant guides you should see and learn a huge amount about the Masai Mara's resident wildlife during our game drives.

As a climax, there is also the option of taking a sunrise balloon ride over the African plains (subject to the weather conditions and availability).

Accommodation: Basecamp Masai Mara or similar

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch (except Day 3), Dinner

Day 6

Early morning game drive or optional walk; transfer to Nairobi.

After a final early morning game drive, we leave after breakfast heading back towards Nairobi. A picnic lunch will be taken en route. We spend our last night in Nairobi.

Accommodation: Eka Hotel or similar

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7

End Nairobi.

The trip ends today in Nairobi after breakfast.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Lodge, Luxury Tented Camp and Hotel

Our first two nights are spent near Lake Elementaita and our last night is spent in a comfortable hotel in Nairobi.

In the Masai Mara we generally use Basecamp Masai Mara. Bordering the Masai Mara Game Reserve, this luxury, eco-friendly camp is perfectly situated along the Talek River providing panoramic views of the surroundings and local wildlife. The camp consists of only 17 tents with all tented rooms set up overlooking the river, raised up slightly on wooden platforms with thatched roofs and verandah. All tents include en suite bathrooms with solar-heated showers.

Our last night is in a comfortable hotel in Nairobi.

Where a single supplement is available, paying for a single will only guarantee a room for single use. It does not necessarily mean a twin or double room will be provided for sole occupancy.

Please note that a member of the group may be allocated a single room by default if the make-up of the group means there isn't anyone for them to share with. Paying the supplement in advance is the only way to guarantee a single room.

Single supplements cannot be refunded retrospectively.

Single supplement from \$573.50 USD

Food & Transport

Eating & Drinking

All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners included

Meals are generally taken at the lodge or camp but we may take pack lunches with us depending on the planned activities and game drives on a particular day.

Breakfasts are generally made up of a selection of fruit, cereal, yogurt, bread as well, potentially, as some cooked elements.

Lunches and dinners will normally have a variety of European and local dishes.

There is also tea served before the late afternoon game drive in the Masai Mara.

Vegetarians are well catered for but please inform us before departure of any special dietary requests.

Water

Purified water is provided by the guide throughout your trip in 10 litre drums carried on top of the vehicles, so you need only bring a reusable water bottle. In the lodges, generally, 1 bottle of water is provided free of charge so we suggest you fill your water bottle before you leave the vehicles for the evening. Otherwise, you will be able to purchase water at the lodge bar.

Transportation

We use 4WD Toyota Landcruisers with roof-hatches for enhanced game viewing. Every passenger has a window seat and the vehicles take 6 passengers plus the driver/guide.

Weather & Seasonality

When to go

Kenya straddles the equator so showers can occur at any time of year, however the wettest period is April and May (we have no departures then). Due to the altitude of both Elementaita/Nakuru (1600m) and the Masai Mara (1550m) the night time temperature is beautiful, cool yet not cold. Daytime temperatures can get as high as 30°C/ 86°F but with low humidity. There can be light rains at the end of the year, but if anything this is a good thing as it cuts down the dust and brings out the colours. In the wet the roads can become difficult and a little patience and pushing may be required! Please be aware that over recent years weather patterns have changed and are now somewhat unpredictable.

Joining Instructions

Travelling land only: 7 days starting and ending in Nairobi

Clients who are not able to join the group arrival transfer at Nairobi Airport should meet the group at the Eka Hotel in Nairobi on day 1.

On the morning of day 1 of the tour, all clients should be at Eka Hotel by 7am in Nairobi to commence the tour. It is recommended to either book a flight with a very early morning arrival into Nairobi on day 1 or alternatively book 1 night pre-tour accommodation at Eka Hotel in order to meet the group at 7am on day 1.

Please note that the start point of the trip may be difficult to reach on your own and, due to the distance from the airport, a private transfer would be expensive. Therefore, you will have to make sure that you will be at Eka Hotel on time to be collected by the group on their way to Lake Nakuru.

You also need to advise Exodus in advance if you are planning to do this. If you are making your own way, the start hotel at Lake Nakuru is approximately 3.5 hours drive from Nairobi airport.

The pick up time will be advised on the joining information that will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks before departure.

If you book pre- or post-tour accommodation in Nairobi it is possible to book a private transfer from and to the airport. Please contact our sales team for further information and prices.

Also, please note that the end location of the tour in Nairobi is the Eka Hotel. It may be possible to join the one group departure transfer to the airport (depending on flight departure times). Otherwise, you can also request a private transfer (extra fee). This must be requested with Exodus before your trip commences.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers will be sent to you as part of our Final Joining Instructions. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

Transfers Details

There will 1 group arrival transfer to and from Nairobi Airport.

If you would like to enquire about joining this early morning arrival airport transfer, you must request further details with Exodus at least a month before departure.

If you are not able to take the group arrival transfer, or miss it, you must make your own way to the joining point at your own expense.

Private arrival and departure transfers are also available (extra fee) if requested and pre-booked at least a month before departure.

Location start: Nairobi

Location end: Nairobi

What to Take

Essential Equipment

- Flashlight
- Sunhat
- Sun cream
- Soft holdall
- Sunglasses
- Daypack
- Camera with a telephoto lens (preferable)
- Binoculars (highly recommended)
- Lightweight walking shoes
- Fleece and windbreak for early mornings
- Very light wet weather top
- Buff/scarf for dust
- Reusable water bottle- new regulations in Kenyan National Parks have banned single use plastic water bottles and are no longer allowed in the parks. So please make sure to pack a reusable water bottle for the trip.

Please note: In a move praised by conservation groups and health organisations, Kenya has taken the lead in banning the use of plastic carrier bags and certain other plastic bags. Included in the ban are the following items that travellers might carry:

- Duty free carrier bags
- General shopping bags
- Bin liners (sometimes used to protect luggage during rain)
- Dry cleaning bags (commonly wrapped around clothing)
- Ziplock bags

Travelers arriving into Kenya via airports, sea ports or land borders will be required to leave any bags deemed to be on the banned list at the point of entry. Travellers will not be fined so long as they surrender any prohibited bags only.

Water Included

Plastic bottles are a big issue in many countries where recycling isn't yet widely available; they often end up in landfill sites or get burnt, both processes are harmful to the environment and we would like to reduce our impact here. For your trip we provide an alternative to single-use plastic bottles in order to reduce the amount of plastic used. This means that safe drinking water will be available throughout so all you need to do is bring a bottle to re-fill along the way. Please add this to your packing list!

Reading List

Kenya - The Rough Guide, Richard Trillo (Harrap Columbus)

East Africa - a Travel Survival Kit, G. Crowther (Lonely Planet Publications), Useful and practical guide.

Guide to the National Parks of East Africa, Collins, Overall guide to the parks, the animals and the birds. Good value.

Field guide to the Birds of East Africa, J.G. Williams (Collins, 1980)

Field guide to the Mammals of East Africa, Hatlenorth and Diller (Collins), Excellent guide to the animals.

Practical Information

Passport

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information below is primarily for UK passport holders, and other nationalities should check with their travel agent or the relevant embassies. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Visa

Most nationalities do now require a visa for Kenya, including Britons, most EU nationals, Australians, New Zealanders, Americans and Canadians. At present single entry and transit visas are available online (see below) and soon all visas will have to be obtained online. Alternatively visas are available in advance or on arrival. The Kenyan government are planning for all visas to be obtained online and may stop delivering visas on arrival on short notice. For the latest information please contact your local Kenyan High Commission or Consulate.

For information about the online application process please visit <http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>.

The cost of the visa is US\$50 for a single entry visa and US\$100 for an East Africa visa (valid to travel in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda).

You will need to first register to the ecitizens website (including needing a photo 500px x 500px) before you can start applying.

For the application process itself you will need details of the accommodation used (which we will send you) and itinerary as well as a photo 5.5cm x 5.5cm and a scanned or photographed copy of your passport's bio/photo page.

If after visiting Kenya you will also travel to Uganda and Rwanda, you may apply for East African Visa that will cover all three countries. This visa is currently available upon arrival in Nairobi. Please contact the Kenyan High Commission to obtain more information about the combined visa from Kenya.

Visa regulations can change without notice: please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

Vaccinations

There are no mandatory vaccination requirements. Recommended vaccinations are: Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Hepatitis A. Malaria prophylaxis is essential and we suggest that you seek advice from your GP or travel health clinic about which malaria tablets to take. Dengue fever is a known risk in places visited. It is a tropical viral disease spread by daytime biting mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available for Dengue, and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you take the usual precautions to avoid mosquito bites.

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

Bilharzia is known to occur in some of the lakes or rivers visited on this itinerary, we therefore advise all to take advice from your guide or leader locally before venturing for a swim.

The above information can change at short notice; as we are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health we strongly recommend you contact your Medical Professional or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information. Please note: vaccinations that are routinely recommended to residents of the UK, North America or Australasia are not considered to form part of the travel health advice, and you should ensure these are kept up to date where necessary.

Insurance - are you adequately covered?

It is a condition of joining any of our holidays that you must be fully insured against medical and personal accident risks (to include repatriation costs and air ambulance or helicopter rescue services where appropriate). On arrival in destination for your trip, you will be asked to present details to your leader or local representative of your policy.

If you are resident in the UK we strongly recommend the [Exodus travel insurance policy](#), this is specifically designed to cover all activities on your trip. If arranging your own policy please ensure that you are covered for all activities that are part of the trip, optional activities that you intend to take part in and/or on high altitude itineraries, that you are covered up to the maximum altitude of the trip.

Local Time

Kenya's Timezone: Africa/Nairobi EAT (GMT +03:00)

Electricity

Kenya's Electricity: 240 Volts. Plug types G; establishments take the same plugs as the UK.

Money

Kenya's Currency

The national currency of Kenya is the Kenyan Shilling (KES), with an exchange rate at the time of publication (September 2017) of approximately 136 to the GBP, 103 to the USD, 85 to the CAD, 123 to the EUR, 83 to the AUD and 75 to the NZD.

ATM Availability

ATM machines are available in Nairobi. Credit Cards are accepted at the lodges we use.

Extra Expenses & Spending Money

Drinks are at your own expense.

Food not included - approx. CAD 68/ USD 50/ GBP 40

We recommend that you take most of your money in either USD or GBP. It is best to change money at the airport in Nairobi on arrival. We recommend that you change money into local currency in Nairobi, as USD or GBP are not accepted everywhere and outside Nairobi the exchange rate might be poor.

Optional Excursions

Masai Village Visit approx. CAD 40/ USD 30/ GBP 24

Hot Air Balloon approx. CAD 618/ USD 455/ GBP 363 (please note that landings can sometimes be a bit rough)

Tipping

We recommend about CAD 68/ USD 50/ GBP 40 total for your driver(s)/guide(s) and about CAD 28/ USD 20/ GBP 16 in total for the lodge/camp staff to share.

Tipping your RCGS Quest host is not necessary.

Responsible Tourism

At Exodus we believe in the power of Responsible Travel.

Every time we travel, we are part of a global movement that creates jobs, builds more sustainable societies, encourages cultural understanding and safeguards common natural and cultural heritage. To learn more about what Responsible Travel means to Exodus [click here...](#)

Exodus Community

Join the Exodus online community

Don't forget to visit the Community area on our website. You can view the range of Exodus videos and podcasts, read trip write-ups which have featured in the national media and take advantage of some special deals on travel gear and equipment.

In the Community Travel Forum you'll find the Departure Lounge where you can discuss your trip with fellow travellers before you depart. When you get back from your holiday remember to upload your images to the relevant trip page on our website. This helps other people see what our

holidays are really like and you'll be entered automatically into our monthly photo competition.

To make full use of the Community you'll need to join My Exodus. It's free, registration is simple and easy, so what are you waiting for?

Important Information

On all guided trips

Although our leaders are well trained to deal with different capabilities, if they have any concerns about someone's ability to safely partake in an activity, or their impact on other people's enjoyment, we authorize them to take necessary action which, in some circumstances, may involve asking someone to miss that activity.

Although rarely enforced, by booking this trip you agree to section 16 of our Booking Conditions which clearly states that our leaders have the authority to do this. In these circumstances we will ensure anyone sitting out is safely provided for and offered alternative options where possible. Refunds will not be provided for activities missed and customers may be liable for additional costs incurred.

On all trips

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call the Exodus office and ask to speak to one of the experts on this itinerary.

In an emergency, please contact us using our 24-hour number at +44 (0) 844 326 7041.

Every time that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the essential information in the brochure.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately two to three weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure or require them earlier, please contact our office or your travel agent.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure or website, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure and website. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary. Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

As fuel prices, airport taxes and exchange rates fluctuate, and airlines manage their rates to match demand, it is proving harder than ever to guarantee our Flight Inclusive prices. Although we endeavor to keep our website as accurate as possible, daily fluctuations mean that our Flight Inclusive price may be out of date. For accurate prices we recommend that you contact one of our Travel Experts, or your Travel Agent.

Please note, although this trip doesn't visit any FCO no-go areas, it does visit a region close to an area where the advice is not to travel. If joining this trip, or if planning any additional travel pre or post tour in the area, you should ensure you visit their website to familiarise yourself with the advice. Any independent travel to these areas is entirely at your own risk and is likely not to be covered by your insurance.