



The Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Presents

Kenya Safari Adventure

October 14 - 27, 2018

**\$5,779 Per Person,
Double Occupancy from Chicago**



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Day by Day Itinerary

Sunday, October 14 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this evening by scheduled service of Swiss International Air Lines on the overnight transatlantic flight to Zurich, Switzerland.

Monday, October 15 – ZURICH / NAIROBI (I,HD)

As the sun begins to rise on the Swiss Alps, we arrive in Zurich and change planes for the connecting flight to Nairobi, Kenya. On arrival, we'll meet our Driver-Guides who will introduce us to Kenya's capital city and accompany us throughout our extraordinary safari adventure.

Tuesday, October 16 – NAIROBI / AMBOSELI (B,L,D)

This morning we depart Nairobi and travel to Amboseli National Park, which not only offers great game viewing, but is also the best place for iconic views of Mount Kilimanjaro. The world's tallest free-standing mountain rises just across the border in Tanzania, but Amboseli has a postcard-perfect view of its snow-capped peaks. At only 150-square miles, Amboseli is a small park. However, the streams from Kilimanjaro surface in the center of Amboseli, creating wetlands that support a rich diversity of wildlife, and most of the classic big mammals will make their way here. To be found on our afternoon game drive is a species list that includes lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard, spotted hyena, giraffe and cheetah, and bird watchers will be happy with a list that tops 300 species.

Wednesday, October 17 – AMBOSELI (B,L,D)

Today will feature Amboseli National Park. Eulogized by authors such as Ernest Hemingway and Robert Ruark, the inspirational sight of Kilimanjaro's snowcapped peak towering some 3 miles above the Amboseli plains provides a superb backdrop for the park's prodigious wildlife. An ever-mutating patchwork of dusty plains and marshland, this wildlife rich park is not a self-contained ecological unit but the unfenced and watery core of a more expansive semiarid ecosystem. Practically unscathed by ivory poaching in the 1980s, Amboseli is home to the region's oldest elephants, including some impressively tusked bulls that are drawn to the park's lush swamplands.

Thursday, October 18 – AMBOSELI/MT KENYA (B,L,D)

A day of travel will see us depart Amboseli National Park and return to Nairobi. After lunch, we'll set our sights on Mt. Kenya National Park, established in 1949 to protect Mount Kenya, the wildlife and surrounding environment, which forms a habitat for wild animals, as well as acting as a reservoir, supplying Kenya's water. Mt. Kenya provides water for about 50% of the country's population and produces 70% of Kenya's hydroelectric power. This evening's game viewing will take place at the Serena Mountain Lodge. The only 'tree hotel' on the slopes of Kenya's legendary Mount Kenya, the lodge offers unique game viewing opportunities with an open-air deck that gazes down to a water hole bustling with elephant and buffalo herds. As darkness approaches, the

trees surrounding the hotel come alive in a wall of sound as creatures of all manner begin their nocturnal rituals.

Friday, October 19 – MT KENYA / SAMBURU (B,L,D)

Today we depart Mt. Kenya National Park and travel to the Samburu National Reserve, lying on the edge of northern Kenya's arid savannahs. As we'll soon find out, the Samburu National Reserve is a destination that will appeal as much to the safari first-timer as it will to the veteran. The most rewarding of the three national reserves that cluster around the life-giving Ewaso Ngiro River, Samburu's game viewing is famously first-class. We'll devote the late afternoon, now that the day will have cooled, to our game drive. We'll go in search of Samburu's elephants, large predators and many rare species including the Grevy's Zebra, Somali ostrich, reticulated giraffe, gerenuk, and beisa oryx - also referred to as the Samburu special five.

Saturday, October 20 – SAMBURU (B,L,D)

Samburu National Reserve game drives are unforgettable. Dreams come alive as we experience what simply cannot be captured in pictures, film, or music: the magic of the true Kenya. The trio of ecologically affiliated and unfenced reserves – Samburu, Buffalo Springs, and Shaba National Reserves, collectively protect 170 square miles of semiarid savannah along the Ewaso Nyiro River which is the lifeline of this environment. Our game viewing will concentrate along the near-perennial river that rises in the Aberdares and provides the vital source of water for elephants and other large mammals.

Sunday, October 21 – SAMBURU / OL PEJETA (B,L,D)

Today we depart the Samburu National Reserve and set our sights on the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, a 90,000-acre wildlife conservancy located in central Kenya on the Laikipia Plateau. With the snowy peaks of Mt. Kenya as our backdrop, a game drive in East Africa's largest black rhino sanctuary is sure to be as beautiful as it is diverse. In this region of grass plains, acacia woodland and evergreen thicket, the conservancy holds some of the highest predator densities in Kenya. We'll also visit the Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary, established in 1993, with an agreement between the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Jane Goodall Institute. Over the last decade, the sanctuary has provided a haven for the recovery and rehabilitation of chimpanzees; all victims of the illegal pet trade, and the only place in Kenya where these fascinating animals can be seen.

Monday, October 22 – OL PEJETA / LAKE NAIVASHA (B,L,D)

This morning we depart the Ol Pejeta Conservancy and set our sights on Lake Nakuru National Park. One of the Great Rift Valley's most famous soda lakes, Lake Nakuru offers visitors the chance to witness one of the world's most spectacular wildlife sights: brilliant pink flamingos as far as the eye can see. This afternoon's bird watching and game

drive offers an opportunity to see and engage in many of East Africa's most prized fauna in a natural and beautiful setting. When conditions are right, between one and two million lesser and greater flamingos feed around the shores of the shallow lake. A species list of around 400 birds makes Lake Nakuru a genuine ornithologist's paradise. Afterward, we'll set our sights on Lake Naivasha, the highest lake in the Rift Valley and one of the most beautiful.

Tuesday, October 23 – LAKE NAIVASHA

(Hell's Gate)

(B,L,D)

Our day will begin with a visit to Hell's Gate National Park, home to a variety of wildlife, flora and over 100 species of birds. The breathtaking scenery, complete with towering cliffs, gorges, rock towers, volcanoes and belching plumes of geothermal steam, make it one of the most atmospheric parks in Africa. This afternoon we'll return to Lake Naivasha and embark aboard a leisurely cruise of this beautiful freshwater lake, offering an alternate natural perspective to view the various game Africa is known for. Giraffe are often seen in the area among the acacia, while Colobus monkeys usually roam the treetops. We'll also have an opportunity to see buffalos out in swamps, along with hippos in the shallow waters. The rich birdlife includes ospreys, eagles, black cranes and lily-trotters who choose to inhabit the lake area.

Wednesday, October 24 – LAKE NAIVASHA /

MASAI MARA

(B,L,D)

Early this morning we depart the shores of Lake Naivasha for the Masai Mara. Set in the northern part of the Great Plains, including Tanzania's Serengeti to the south, the Masai Mara offers perhaps the finest game viewing in the world. This vast protected landscape is Kenya's flagship conservation area. Game viewing in the Masai Mara is excellent all year round thanks to the diverse population of resident game, including the Big 5 – plus popular species like zebra, giraffe, hyena,

eland and gazelle. On this afternoon's game drive, we'll learn about one of nature's greatest spectacles, the wildebeest migration. From July to November, the number of wildebeest arriving in the area is staggering. The migration is a dramatic mass movement of almost 2-million wildebeest, zebra and gazelle in a seasonal annual cycle driven by rainfall.

Thursday, October 25 – MASAI MARA (B,L,D)

The entire day will be spent in the 721-square mile Mara, as it is referred to. Established in 1961, the Mara landscape features verdant savannah grasses and lone acacia trees that evoke the classic image of this country. Not surprisingly, the romantic movie *Out of Africa* was filmed here. The Mara is perhaps the only region left in Kenya where visitors have an opportunity to see animals in the same superabundance as existed a century ago. We can expect to see the great migrating herds of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle as well as the predators. Buffalo and elephant are also prevalent, and prides of more than 20 lions including large black-maned males are not an uncommon sight.

Friday, October 26 – MASAI MARA / EN ROUTE (B,L,D)

As all good things must come to an end, today we depart the Masai Mara and travel to Nairobi, where day rooms will allow us an opportunity to freshen-up and relax prior to this evenings overnight flight to Frankfurt, Germany.

Saturday, October 27 – FRANKFURT / CHICAGO (I)

As the sun begins to rise on the German heartland we arrive in Frankfurt and continue by connecting flight to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Kenya Safari Adventure* to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Airline transportation by scheduled service of Swiss International Air Lines and Lufthansa German Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach pre and post-safari, with 7-seat stretch Land Cruisers while on safari with accompanying Driver-Guides.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Kenya Visa.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$800 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees; gratuities to the Driver-Guides and local Guides; luggage handling at airports; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservations may be made by check or credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover). Tour prices do increase every year and it is possible that increases could occur after the printing of this brochure in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated and additional charges will be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your trip investment from trip cancellation/interruption penalties and provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial trip deposit can make you eligible for 1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and 2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Elite Option). If you wish to take advantage of the special above provisions, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial trip deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387.

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For more information contact the NIU Alumni Association at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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