



# 12

## DAYS



WITH WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER  
SEAN CRANE  
AND KAREN CRANE



## CLASSIC KENYAN SAFARI PLUS GORILLAS

For first time safari-goers, choosing the right trip can be a challenge. Where to visit, what time of year to go, what camps and lodges to consider, and what type of safari vehicles to choose can make all the difference. That's why we've designed the trip that we would have wanted to go on for our first visit. A twelve-day safari deep into the heart of Kenya, including a few days of gorilla and golden monkey trekking in Uganda. This adventure will take place in late June of 2023, a beautiful time of year with many advantages. The landscapes are still showing green from the rains that ended in May and the typical day is 77° with blue skies. Of course we can never predict the weather with 100% accuracy, but there's a reason June is the beginning of the most popular season in East Africa. This is also the time that the Great Migration is just starting to get under way at our first stop, the world-famous Masai Mara—often considered the greatest spot on earth for variety and abundance of large mammals. Next up, Samburu National Reserve, a peaceful oasis of dry scrubland centered around the Ewaso Nyiro River and home to several species not found in the Mara. And our final destination takes us to Uganda, the land of the critically endangered mountain gorilla.

### TRIP DATE: 2023 24 JUNE – 5 JULY

**BLD—Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

#### DAY 1: ARRIVE NAIROBI

Upon arrival at Nairobi's international airport, we will be met by our Kenyan travel host and brought to the Eco Wildebeest Camp just outside the city. Depending on what the group wants, we can visit an elephant orphanage, the Karen Blixen Museum, the Giraffe Center, or simply relax by the pool of our safari-style accommodations and prepare for the adventure ahead. **D**

#### DAYS 2, 3, 4: MASAI MARA

We will spend the next three days on game drives and game walks through this famous reserve. Enjoy breakfast on the plains, surrounded by wildlife before returning to camp for an afternoon siesta followed by the day's second exciting outing into the park. The Mara is perhaps the world's top location for viewing a multitude of large mammals, including lion, leopard, cheetah, elephant, giraffe, hippo, rhino and much more. The Mara is contiguous with the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania and was named in honor of the Masai people as their ancestral home. **BLD**

#### DAYS 5, 6, 7: SAMBURU

After an early breakfast we fly to Samburu National Reserve in northern Kenya. Our accommodation is at Elephant Bedroom, a luxury camp set beside the Ewaso Nyiro river and nestled among the spectacular scenery of the region. Settle in for another three days of game drives but don't be surprised if the local elephants meander through camp while you're relaxing in your private plunge pool. **BLD**

#### DAY 8: TRAVEL TO KIGALI

Today we fly from Samburu to Nairobi and on to Kigali, Rwanda where we spend the night at the Hotel des Mille Collines. **BLD**



#### Includes:

- All meals per itinerary
- Two game drives a day while on safari
- Guide and tracker
- Most tips
- All park fees
- Internal flights
- Gorilla permits
- All ground transport
- Laundry
- Non-alcoholic beverages

#### Excludes:

- International airfare to and from Africa
- Alcoholic beverages
- Travel insurance
- Tourist visa
- Tips for RAW Africa staff and gorilla porters

### DAY 9: ARRIVE UGANDA

Today we will transfer to Kisoro, Uganda where we will meet the local villagers before spending the night at Lake Mutanda Lodge. The lodge is perched on a peninsula in the shadow of the Virunga Mountains, and offers “comfortable accommodation combined with the most beautiful views on planet earth.”

In the evening we will prepare for our gorilla trek. We will visit the Nyakagenzi family — a group of 9 gorillas including several silverbacks as well as an infant.

**BLD**

### DAY 10: GORILLAS

There are just over 1000 Mountain Gorillas left in the wild. This will surely be a trip highlight to meet the Nyakagezi family that inhabit the forests of Mgahinga National Park. This is one of the most picturesque spots in the world to view and photograph these critically endangered primates. Uganda’s Forests are not only famous for their spectacular gorilla families, but also for bird life and other forest primates. *(\*Note — we may have to split up and do half the group today and half tomorrow due to park regulations on size of groups visiting the gorillas.)*

**BLD**

### DAY 11: GOLDEN MONKEYS

Today the subject of our trek is another fascinating and endangered primate species — the golden monkey. Mgahinga National Park and the Virunga Mountains are home to the last breeding population of these monkeys. Alternate cultural activities also an option. **B**

### DAY 12: TRAVEL TO KIGALI AND ONWARD FLIGHTS

Our African adventure comes to an end today as we transfer to Kigali airport in Rwanda for our transfer back to Nairobi and then our onward international flights home.



# THE CAMPS



Tanguila Mara/Masai Mara







Tangulia Mara is the only camp in the Mara not only operated, but owned by the Masai. Trackers are among the best in Kenya and this camp is regularly featured on the BBC series “Big Cat Diary.” Perched on a leafy hill on the edge of the National Reserve, Tangulia Mara overlooks a clay lick that attracts a never-ending procession of wildlife to the nutrient-rich clay. It’s not uncommon to watch from your tent as a dozen giraffe graze alongside elephant, baboon and zebra. The seven classic safari-style tents are built on wooden decks and are all ensuite. Bathrooms are plumbed with hot and cold running water and all tents have a veranda with a view of the salt lick.





Elephant Bedroom/Samburu







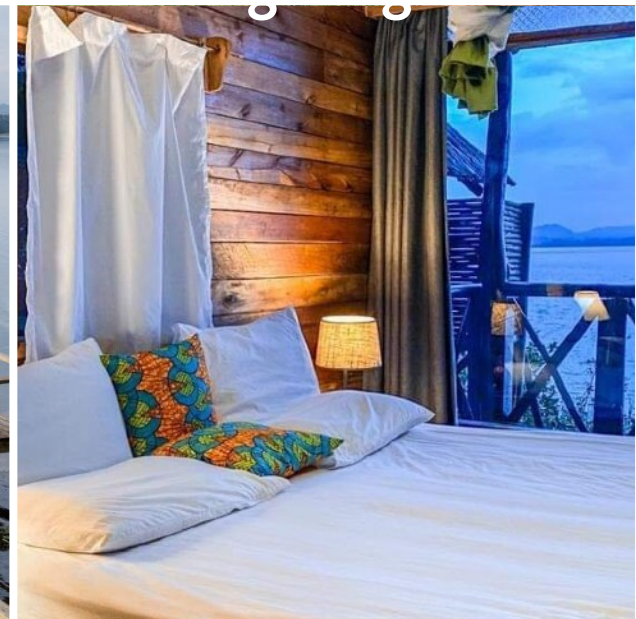
Shaded by doum palm trees, there's an easy elegance about Elephant Bedroom that gives the sense of an earlier time of exotic travel. A spacious dining and lounge tent is a great place to meet and have a drink, read a book or listen to stories of the day's adventures. All guest tents are set on wood platforms, with walk in showers and upscale design touches reflecting the local Samburu tribespeople. Each tent also has a small, private plunge pool. The camp itself is set along the banks of the Uaso Nyiro River, a prime location inside picturesque Samburu National Reserve. Elephants regularly stroll past on their way to the river. Vervet monkeys are also common regulars and guests need to be vigilant about locking the zipper on their tents to avoid any primate thievery. Situated in the north of Kenya, Samburu's red-hued clay landscapes, and unique species make it a perfect accompaniment and contrast to the Masai Mara.



# THE CAMPS



Lake Mutanda Lodge/Uganda







The lush, volcanic mountains of Uganda provide a completely different experience than the open savannas of Kenya. Mutanda Lake Lodge is idyllically situated to take advantage of all the spectacular scenery. Comfortable tents are raised on wooden platforms, each with its own porch. This is the perfect base to explore the realm of the silverback. In addition to the famed local apes, colorful birds and chameleons are common around the lodge. And the lake provides all sorts of activities from swimming to island hopping in a canoe.



“Two thumbs up. The trip of a lifetime! Don’t miss this amazing opportunity. We are still talking about our adventure and promising each other that we’ll return.” — Charles Locke

“Wowza!! Just magical. Thank you so much Karen and Sean.” — Nancy Queirolo

“Let’s go back!!!” — Crispin Panyard



General information and conditions. (This trip is a joint venture between Sean Crane Photography and ground agent RAW Africa Ecotours)  
This itinerary is a guide only, as circumstances beyond the control of the operators will sometimes necessitate changes or modifications to the scheduled program. All travelers must have a valid passport for international travel with at least 6 months validity from the date of return. It is the responsibility of the traveler to ensure that they have all valid entry visas, including multi-entry, as required. These are available at some border crossings, please contact Sean Crane Photography for more information. Tours do not include return flights from point of origin; travel insurance; alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, snacks and food outside the itinerary; additional activities beyond the scheduled itinerary. Prices are a guide only, Sean Crane Photography and RAW Africa Ecotours reserves the right to adjust these at any time without notice. Unless otherwise stated, prices are inclusive of taxes and charges that apply as of 7 October 2022, but they do not include any fees for optional items which are payable directly to 3rd parties. Prices are in US dollars and may incur additional costs and international transfer fees if payment is made outside the US.