

# Eyes on Africa Presents



## Maasai Mara & Serengeti: Big Cats, Little Cubs, and the Great Migration

East Africa Photo Safari with Jack & Rikki Swenson

Kenya & Tanzania: January 31 through February 13, 2019

Pre-Safari Extension to Samburu, Kenya: January 27 to 31, 2019



### PHOTO SAFARI FEATURES

Eyes on Africa is delighted to present a new, in-depth safari into the Mara and Serengeti ecosystem, exploring four of the best locations this region has to offer. This itinerary offers **an unparalleled view of East Africa's greatest wildlife region.**

**This safari has been designed for anyone who enjoys lingering with wildlife** (including non-photographers), and especially for photographers of any skill level, including beginners. This is definitely not the standard safari circuit itinerary, but rather a customized program where we have personally selected each locale for its outstanding wildlife and varied habitats, with days paced for your interests and enjoyment.

- This itinerary utilizes **Private Air** charters to maximize your time in wildlife parks and reserves (internal air included). **New for 2019**, we have increased the weight allowance to **66lb. Luggage Weight Limit Per Traveler** to accommodate additional gear/camera bags on these flights (instead of the standard safari air allowance total of 33lbs).
- Game drives have **No More Than Four Guests Per Safari Vehicle**, so you'll have plenty of room for gear and elbows. You don't have to be a photographer to appreciate this extra detail.
- Daily opportunities in the field or at camp for **One-On-One Time Learning from Jack & Rikki at your level of expertise.** They customize the content to match your interests and experience.

### WHY EAST AFRICA IN FEBRUARY?

Kenya and Tanzania in February are phenomenal places for those who love watching wildlife and especially for photographers. The scenic beauty and tremendous amount of wildlife to be seen with ease, makes East Africa the classic safari experience. We've chosen February for this annual Photo Safari for numerous reasons, and these are the top three:

- **This is a fantastic time of year for observing predators** — lion, cheetah, and leopard! Big cats are found throughout this safari. These locations are all well known by top wildlife and nature photographers and filmmakers. BBC's "[Big Cat Diary](#)" and Disney "[African Cats: Kingdom of Courage](#)" have been filmed in this exact area in the Maasai Mara National Reserve. They chose this location because it's a phenomenal place for big cats. And it still is!
- **In February, the southern Serengeti Plains are the epicenter of the Great Migration**, and it's an exceptionally exciting time to be there. The yearly cycle begins here when over a million wildebeest move into the southern Serengeti along with hundreds of thousands of zebras as well as Thomson's and Grant's gazelles. It is here, in the relative safety of the short grass plains, where vast numbers of wildebeest have their young during the month of February. There is nothing quite like being there amid these herds, 360° as far as the eye can see, the plains dotted with wildebeest, zebra, and gazelles. It's spectacular, like being in the midst of a top-notch wildlife special.



• **Babies!!! Lots of young animals are seen in both Kenya and Tanzania at this time of year** — giraffe, elephants, lion, cheetah, zebra, wildebeest, hippos, gazelles, baboons, monkeys. It is an amazing pleasure to see and photograph so many youngsters, actively exploring their world, and to observe loving behaviors between powerful adult animals and their young. It is touching to watch a baby elephant learning to use its trunk, or to see a newborn wildebeest calf struggle to its feet for the first time, knowing that it will soon be keeping up with the herd (timing a newborn, and it was less than 9 minutes from birth to trotting with mom back to the herd!). There is always a great variety to see and photograph.



## YOUR TRIP LEADERS

### **Jack Swenson**

Jack's career as a guide and professional photographer spans more than 40 years, from early work in Wyoming's Rocky Mountains to expedition travel on all the oceans of the world. Jack began with Lindblad Expeditions in 1988, and for the past 30 years has worked as a naturalist, Expedition Leader, and Director of Field Operations. He was a founding member of their renown Photo Expedition program that has been the Lindblad-National Geographic Expedition Photography program since 2004.

Trained as a wildlife biologist, he has worked on research projects studying elephant seals, seabirds, endangered shorebirds, and for ten years was part of a U.S. National Marine Mammal Laboratory team studying killer whales throughout Alaskan waters. In 1996, he and his partner, Rikki, spent a month exploring Namibia by Land Rover, thus beginning a long-term love affair with each other and Africa.

His life's work has revolved around seeking out wildlife and wild places and sharing these wonders with others. His images have been published widely in magazines, newspapers and books including publications by *BBC*, *Smithsonian*, *Audubon*, and *National Geographic*. He has co-authored a photographic book on Baja California, and a photo-identification guide to the killer whales of Southeast Alaska. A film shooter for 25 years, Jack was an early adopter of digital cameras, quickly recognizing the technology's advantages in teaching photography and spurring creativity in himself and others.

With his wife, Rikki, he leads Photo Expeditions and Photo Safaris, guiding others to the world's most remarkable wildlife destinations. Jack uses his skills as a photo instructor along with his knowledge of wildlife behavior to help you to better understand your camera, and how to use it to create your own outstanding images of the natural world.

### **Rikki Swenson**

For 14 years, Rikki has been creating and leading African photo safaris with her husband, Jack — in Kenya & Tanzania, South Africa, Botswana & Zambia, as well as Namibia and gorilla trekking in Rwanda. Passionate about African animals, she loves to linger with wildlife, to observe and photograph behaviors, and capture special moments. A professional photographer and an inspiring photography instructor, she loves those "Ah Ha!" moments when her travellers get the shot.



Rikki has worked in the Photo Expedition field since 2001 as photo expert on Lindblad Expedition | National Geographic voyages. She has been a photo guide on expedition ships in wild places ranging from the high Arctic to the Antarctic Peninsula, the length of coastal West Africa, Papua New Guinea, South Pacific to Easter Island, and Galapagos, Baja California, and Alaska.

Rikki's first career was 20 years in marketing communications, as creative director, photo editor, and copywriter. Her vast experience both creatively and technically (having worked with photo editing software since the earliest days of Adobe Photoshop) helps travellers enhance their photographic point of view. Skilled with handling a broad variety of camera makes and models, and a natural teacher, she uses her expertise to provide one-on-one photo instruction for all skill levels. And, she and Jack have a knack to make safaris a lot of fun.

You can see Jack & Rikki's work at <http://www.expeditiongallery.com/>

# Main Safari

31 January – 13 February 2019

## Thursday, 31 January 2019 – Arrive Nairobi

On arrival in Kenya, you will be met and transferred through to your hotel for an overnight at the luxury Hemingway's Hotel.

**NOTE:** For those not participating in the pre-trip extension, and who wish to enjoy the private Elephant experience at David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust today at 3pm, please be advised that you will most likely need to arrive a day earlier to ensure this happens.

## Friday, 01 February 2019 – Monday, 04 February 2019 – Maasai Mara National Reserve

This morning we fly by private charter to the renowned Maasai Mara Reserve. The Maasai Mara National Reserve (also known as Maasai Mara, Masai Mara and by locals as The Mara) is a large game reserve, contiguous with the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. It is named in honor of the Maasai people (the ancestral inhabitants of the area) and their description of the area when looked at from afar: "Mara," which is Maa (Maasai language) for "spotted," an apt description for the circles of trees, scrub, savanna, and cloud shadows that mark the area. It is globally famous for its exceptional population of lions, leopards and cheetahs.

We will enjoy 4 nights here at Little Governors Camp. The camp is intimate in character, with just 17 luxury en-suite tents tucked around a large watering hole that is continuously visited by both birds and wildlife. The camp has access to game drives on both sides of the Mara River. At Little Governors' there is a resident family of warthogs that wander freely through the camp and guests may need to make way for elephants which sometimes visit the camp at various times throughout the day and night.

## Tuesday, 05 February 2019 – Thursday, 07 February 2019 – Lake Ndutu/Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Today fly by private charter from the Mara, via Migori and Tarime (with a cross border road transfer), to the Lake Ndutu region of the Serengeti Plains. The camp we will be using is situated inside the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), in the heart of the Southern Serengeti Plains, in what is perhaps the finest location in the whole of Ndutu. Lake Ndutu and the surrounding plains are home to highly successful prides of lions, cheetahs stalk the plains, and stealthy leopard inhabit the woodlands.

Perched on the edge of a permanent marsh, Lemala Ndutu Tented Camp is perhaps the ultimate amphitheater for the wildebeest migration between December and March. The 12 tents are sited to capture the boundless drama that accompanies the migration. The herds arrive in the highly nutritious short grass plains of the Southern Serengeti in December and usually begin calving in February.

We will spend 3 nights here enjoying many opportunities to encounter and capture the endless herds of wildebeest and zebra who call this region home at this time of year, and the many predators who make these plains their home. While here, you may arrange for an optional morning balloon safari and champagne breakfast.

### **Friday, 08 February & Saturday, 09 February 2019 – Serengeti National Park**

Today we will enjoy a full-day game drive into the central portion of the Serengeti National Park. The Serengeti hosts the largest terrestrial mammal migration in the world, which helps secure it as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of Africa and as one of the ten natural travel wonders of the world. The Serengeti is also renowned for its large lion population and is one of the best places to observe prides in their natural environment. Approximately 70 large mammal and 500 bird species are found here. This high diversity is a function of diverse habitats, including riverine forests, swamps, kopjes, grasslands, and woodlands.

We will spend 2 nights in this region at Serengeti Pioneer Camp. With sweeping views overlooking Moru Kopjes, Lake Magadi and the endless plains, the camp is ideally situated to offer superlative access to the annual migration when it is in this region, and the 'Big 5' as well. Paying homage to the mobile camps of the 1930's, a time when an African safari was truly a journey into the unknown, Serengeti Pioneer Camp's 'zero footprint' and close proximity to nature combines to make an unmistakably distinctive and truly individual offering.

Comprising of ten-tented luxury accommodations, all of which have en-suite facilities, the tent interiors are designed to evoke the very best of an era long-gone but certainly not forgotten.

### **Sunday, 10 February – Tuesday, 12 February 2019 – Southern Serengeti National Park**

Today we enjoy a game drive transfer to a more remote section of the southern Serengeti, to the only permanent camp in this unspoilt region of the Serengeti. Each year wildebeest congregate annually on the camp's "doorstep."

Built around a spectacular rocky outcrop, or kopje, the camp's communal areas include a dining area, lounge and library, as well as a campfire. The views from the kopje are simply sensational - the perfect spot for sundowners and stargazing. The camp is also ideal for seeing cheetah and the wildebeest herds that congregate on the grassy plains in the calving season from mid-December to March. We will spend 3 nights at the fantastic Sanctuary Kusini Camp.

Nestled in amongst the woodland, each tent has carefully thought-out views of the bush making it the perfect hideaway for casual game viewing. Each tent has its own personal attendant to look after guests during their stay. A large private wooden veranda with comfortable furnishings extends in front of each tent, with many having views of the plains below where zebra, buffalo and lion are a common sight year-round, an ideal spot to relax after a hot restorative shower.

### **Wednesday, 13 February 2019 – Departure from Kilimanjaro**

On this final morning, following a final drive, we will transfer to the nearby airstrip before boarding our private charter to Arusha Airport.

On arrival you will be transferred to the Lake Duluti Serena Hotel where dayrooms have been reserved. There will be a stop en route at the Cultural Heritage Centre for some last-minute shopping. High quality art as well as local curios and even jewelry, books, spices, etc. are available.

Later this evening you will be transferred to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your flight home.

***For Reservations or Information please contact Nicky Glover at Eyes on Africa Ltd.:***

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# Pre-Safari Extension to Samburu Reserve

27 January – 31 January 2019

## **Sunday, 27 January 2019 – Arrive Nairobi**

On arrival in Kenya, you will be met and transferred through to your hotel for an overnight at the luxury Hemingway's Hotel.

## **Monday, 28 – Wednesday, 30 January 2019 – Samburu National Reserve**

This morning, we will fly by private charter to Samburu National Reserve. Samburu derives its name from the native Samburu people of Kenya who live here. The Ewaso Nyiro River cuts through this reserve, drawing a diverse population of African animals to the park. The reserve's topography is mainly open savannah (grassland) with clusters of acacia trees, forest, thorn trees and grassland vegetation along with an unusual backdrop of doum palm trees. Samburu National Reserve was one of the two areas in which conservationists George and Joy Adamson raised Elsa the Lioness. Their story was made famous by the bestselling book and award-winning movie "Born Free".

The Samburu National Reserve is renowned for its rare species of animals unique on this itinerary, namely: the long-necked gerenuk, endangered Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, Somali ostrich, and Beisa oryx. The elusive leopard is often found in the park, along with lion and cheetah. Other African wildlife present in the park include the longest studied family groups of African elephant: who make daily visits to the Ewaso Nyiro River to drink at the waters as they wind their way through this wild region.

Here, we will have the opportunity to watch and photograph a Samburu traditional dance performance where long-limbed morans, or young men, dance by jumping high in the air from a standing position. In addition, we have arranged a private visit with the researchers of Ewaso Lions, a highly respected and inspirational wildlife research and conservation organization based in Samburu.

Our home for the next 3 nights will be Elephant Bedroom Camp, built in an area rich with wildlife and along a route frequented by elephants on their daily path down to the Ewaso Nyiro River. The 12 spacious tents have rustic and colorful African touches, offering all the comforts, including a private plunge pool on the deck.

## **Thursday, 31 January 2019 - Nairobi**

After a morning activity we will return to the airstrip for our private charter back to Nairobi. On arrival we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant followed by a very special private visit to the incredible David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT).

Born from one family's passion for Kenya and its wilderness, the DSWT is today the most successful orphan-elephant rescue and rehabilitation program in the world and one of the pioneering conservation organizations for wildlife and habitat protection in East Africa. Founded in 1977 by Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick, in honor of the memory of her late husband, David Leslie William Sheldrick MBE, the DSWT claims a rich and deeply rooted family history in wildlife and conservation. At the heart of the DSWT's conservation activities is the Orphans' Project, which exists to offer hope for the future of Kenya's threatened elephant and rhino populations as they struggle against the threat of poaching for their ivory and horn, and the loss of habitat due to human population pressures and conflict, deforestation and drought.

The orphans raised by the Trust are gradually rehabilitated back into the wild elephant community of Tsavo National Park when grown, a transition that is made at their own pace and in their own time, but usually taking approximately eight to ten years. A number of the ex-Nursery orphans have now had wild-born young, which they have brought back (to the Tsavo Rehabilitation Center) to show their erstwhile human family, and others are now pregnant and living free, yet keeping in touch with those who are still keeper-dependent.

After the visit to Sheldrick, you will be taken through to Hemingway's to check in.

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# Photo Safari Costs

**MAIN TRIP, 13 nts/14 days: (Safari limited to 14 guests):**

Double Occupancy: US\$18,785.00 PER PERSON

Single Supplement: US\$2,460.00

**PRE-TRIP extension, 4 nts/5 days: Samburu National Reserve:**

Double Occupancy: US\$4,895.00 PER PERSON

Single Supplement: US\$570.00

**Optional Hot Air Balloon Safari:**

US\$550.00 per person

**35% deposit due to Eyes on Africa upon signing up for the trip. Balance is due no later than Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.**

## INCLUSIONS:

- The expertise and leadership of Jack and Rikki Swenson, your dedicated photo trip leaders
- Knowledgeable driver/guide in each vehicle
- Accommodation in deluxe hotels and tented camps per the outline
- Dayrooms in Arusha on the last day of the trip
- All meals from Breakfast on February 1, 2019 through lunch on February 13, 2019 – for the Main trip
- All meals from Breakfast on January 28, 2019 through lunch on January 31, 2019 – for the Samburu pre trip
- All local drinks at all safari camps (city hotels excluded)
- Private Sheldrick Wildlife Trust visit for just your group on 31 January, 2019
- Private charter flights (with 66lb weight limit): Wilson (Nairobi) to Samburu and back, Wilson (Nairobi) to the Mara, Mara to Ndutu (with road border crossing) and Serengeti South to Arusha.
- All necessary airport transportation, with meet and greet service on arrival in country  
Flying Doctors insurance, an emergency airborne medical unit
- All applicable park/concession fees
- Current Government taxes and VAT
- Porterage

## EXCLUSIONS:

- Air transportation to and from East Africa
- Visas
- All gratuities (trip leaders, guides, camp staff, etc)
- Items of a personal nature
- Trip insurance
- Optional Balloon Safari in the Ndutu region



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