Mara and Lake Magadi – Big cats, hides and flamingos (10 days, 9 nights)



This unique trip combines the world-famous nature reserve in Kenya with the unique experience of photographing in day and nocturnal hides and flamingo photography near Lake Magadi. In this season we will specifically be searching for the cats and their exciting lives in the Masai Mara. With camps overlooking rivers, we are always surrounded by animals. There's also still a fair chance of witnessing the great wildebeest migration in the Mara at this time. Five days later we will take a private charter to the Olkirimatian Conservancy where we will be staying in Lentorre Lodge. Here our group can make exclusive use of the hide that is equipped for daytime as well as nocturnal photography. There is a bird hide available as well. It is also possible from this location to make a helicopter flight over Lake Magadi, this comes highly recommended!

Ingrid Vekemans, your tour leader and professional nature photographer, has been travelling to Africa for almost 30 years and has lost her heart on the continent. She feels at home there and looks forward to sharing her knowledge and passion with the group.

This trip takes place in the high season for a reason. The high season is the long dry season in Kenya. Therefore, the wildlife will be more concentrated around areas where water is available ànd the vegetation is much less thick. For these two reasons we will be able to spot many more animals than in the low season and we can almost be assured of lots of visitors at the hide's waterhole in Lentorre.

The trip is aimed at people who love nature and wildlife, and who love photographing it (of course non-photographing partners are also welcome!). Unlike normal group tours, we will be looking especially for photographic opportunities, and will take whatever time is required if the situation is interesting from a photographer's point of view. The group is small, which enables a personal approach and provides enough space in the vehicle and in the hide for the photographic equipment - we will be using 8-seater 4x4 vehicles for a maximum of four people per vehicle. Hence two vehicles will be our transport in the Mara and Ingrid will split her time evenly between them. During the helicopter flights in Lentorre Ingrid and the pilot will be giving instructions and tips through headphones.

Besides photographing together, and immediate advice and tips, there will also be dedicated feedback sessions, where a selection of photos from each participant can be discussed.

A typical day in the Masai Mara starts early, so we can make optimal use of the first, soft morning light. This often results in the most memorable photographs. Also, this is the time of the day where most animal activity can be seen. Most days we will be taking a packed breakfast, which we can enjoy on route in a scenic area. In the late morning and early afternoon, when the temperature rises, you will be at the camp, relaxing and/or viewing photos, making a selection for the feedback session. Late afternoon we will set off again to take photos until the light disappears. (Please note that it is obviously not obligatory to participate in all game drives – often good photo opportunities exist within the camps themselves). There is time to freshen up before dinner after which you can linger to discuss the events of the day, or you may prefer the peace and quiet of your room or tent. After all, tomorrow will undoubtedly be another exciting day! In Lentorre the schedule is very flexible. Except for the helicopter flights there is no limit on the use of the lodge's hides or to do whatever you want.

THIS SAFARI IS OPERATED BY

TUI



IMPORTANT FOR THIS TRIP

- This trip is for photographers who are already well acquainted with the exposure triangle. And off course also for non-photographers that just want to enjoy nature!
- For the hide photography the ideal lenses are the 24-70mm f/2,8 and the 70-200mm f/2,8. Fast lenses are very recommendable for nocturnal photography. On safari in the Masai Mara a minimum of 300mm on a crop camera and 400mm on a full frame camera are advisable.

Day 1

Participants arrive in Nairobi this evening, where they are picked up at the airport and transferred to their hotel. A short briefing on the next day's programme will follow, after which everyone can retire to their room for a refreshing night's sleep.



Day 2

After breakfast, we are picked up for a domestic flight to the heart of the Masai Mara. Upon arrival in the Masai Mara, we meet our drivers and the safari can begin! They take us to our first tented camp, centrally located in the heart of the Masai Mara, which will be our home for the next four nights.

In the late afternoon, we head out on safari again, after which we can freshen up before dinner. Afterwards, there is time to chat about the day or head to bed early and peacefully enjoy the nocturnal sounds of Africa before falling into a deep sleep.



Days 3-5

Further exploration of the central part of the Masai Mara. Normally, we will certainly see elephants, buffaloes, lions, zebras, impalas and other antelope species. There is also a very good chance of seeing cheetahs and hyenas. In addition, we will search for the elusive leopard and smaller predators such as jackals, bat-eared foxes, servals and caracals. A photo review session is scheduled after lunch each day.



Day 6

During the morning, we are picked up in the Masai Mara by private aircraft and flown to the Olkirimatian Conservancy. There, vehicles from Lentorre await us and drive us to Lentorre Lodge. Lentorre is located deep in the wilderness, and the luxury, stunning location and beauty of the lodge perfectly complement the warm welcome from the Lentorre family. On the first afternoon, all the possibilities of the lodge are explained and shown to us, after which we can relax or dive straight into the action! This is our private retreat for the next few days, so everything is possible!



Days 7, 8 and 9

Everyone can fill in these days entirely according to their own wishes. Only the optional helicopter flights will be scheduled in advance.

During the day, there is the opportunity to use the underground hide or the bird hide. There is also a swimming pool, and each spacious tent has its own private outdoor bath/jacuzzi. There is an open-air bar and lounge area overlooking the waterhole and the wilderness. Of course, simply resting and relaxing in your own room is also an option. Ingrid remains available for photo reviews and tips, unless she herself is catching up on some much-needed rest. There is simply so much to do that you would want to stay awake day and night!

The day and night hide is equipped with a refrigerator and drinks to keep you going around the clock. Coffee or tea with snacks can also be brought for small moments of hunger in between. There is a library available, and the lighting both inside and outside the hide is designed so as not to frighten the animals. The hide itself accommodates six photographers and one guide. There are sufficient power outlets available for recharging batteries. Two beds are also available in this section for those who can no longer keep their eyes open. They can let the photographers who are still awake know which animals they wish to be awakened for. In the room behind the actual photography area, there are four additional beds and a toilet.



As we are here during the dry season, there is a high chance that the surrounding water sources will be almost depleted, meaning that besides the regular visitors (genets, jackals, striped hyenas and white-tailed mongooses), we may also photograph lions, leopards, giraffes, impalas, zebras and bat-eared foxes. Even the caracal has been photographed here several times.



If the majority of the group (minimum five participants) chooses to take a helicopter flight, we will take to the skies for an unforgettable flight over Lake Magadi with its stunning colours and structures and the ever-present flamingos. There are four seats in the helicopter: one for the pilot, one for Ingrid (behind the pilot), and two seats on the left side of the helicopter where the door is removed for completely unobstructed photography. Everyone wears a headset through which the experienced helicopter pilot provides instructions on where to look, while Ingrid regularly points out technical aspects that could easily be overlooked in the excitement. A morning and an evening flight are scheduled. Not only are the light and colours different, but this also allows each participant to analyse their photos between flights and apply any lessons learned during the following flight.



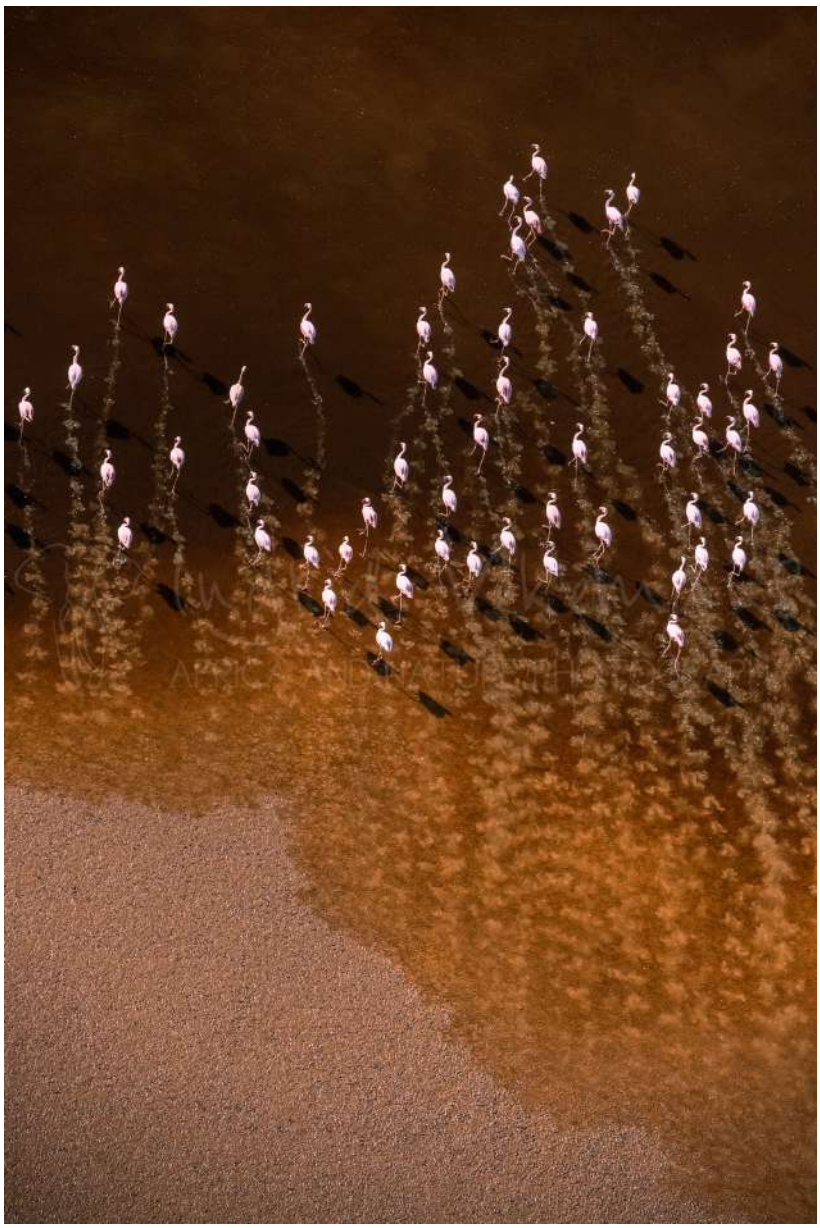
Day 10

Around 4:30 a.m., we depart (directly from the hide – or from bed) for our drive towards Nairobi, ensuring that we arrive at the shores of Lake Magadi before sunrise, where we can photograph the flamingos for several hours at eye level rather than from the air.



We have breakfast on the shores of Lake Magadi, but unfortunately our spectacular photography journey then comes to an end. Tired but fulfilled, we drive to Nairobi where a day room has been reserved for everyone in a comfortable hotel near the airport. We enjoy one final lunch together, after which you have time to rest and freshen up. A hotel shuttle bus will then take you to the airport.

ATTENTION: a change to the above travel schedule is always possible if the circumstances dictate.



PRACTICALITIES

TUI

The safari is organised by TUI tours, part of TUI BELGIUM. The TUI group is the largest tourism group in the world.

You can apply for your reservation with the TUI Belgium headquarters. To this end you can use the 'PRICE INQUIRY' button on the website www.ingridvekemans.com.

The invoice and booking terms and conditions will be sent to you by TUI. TUI's general and special conditions are applicable in so far as they do not deviate from the below mentioned terms. You can find all information on https://www.tui.be/nl/reisvoorwaarden.

The **price** of the trip is 9980€ per person and is based on sharing a double or twin room. The supplement for a single room will be 810€. An advance of 500€ per person will be requested at the time of reservation of the trip, and as soon as departure is guaranteed, a second advance of 1500€ per person will be asked. All prices mentioned on this website are subject to change in case of increase of local taxes or park income fees, off-road permits, and fuel increases.

Safari period: February 9–18, 2028

The price is inclusive of accommodation in comfortable and luxury hotels and tented camps (9 nights), all meals and a selection of drinks (except in Nairobi), laundry service (maximum 5 items per person in the Masai Mara, unlimited in Lentorre), safaris (two per day in the Masai Mara except on travel days) in two extended 4x4 vehicles, drinking water in the vehicles, Flying Doctors coverage, experienced drivers/guides, reserve entrance fees, all transfers, two private charter flights with a maximum total baggage allowance of 45 kg per person, a day room in Nairobi on Day 10, guidance and advice on wildlife and wildlife photography, photo analyses, and an experienced and passionate tour leader.

The price excludes international flights and related taxes, Kenyan eTA, passport costs, travel insurance, drinks in Nairobi, spirits, tips, personal expenses, optional helicopter flights.

Price of the helicopter flights (1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the evening): XXXX€ per person (with 4 participants - €2,525 in 2026), XXXX€ per person (with 5 participants - €2,735 in 2026). These prices are per person for both flights combined, not per flight. PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE – THESE ARE THE 2026 PRICES. THE HELICOPTER FLIGHT PRICES WILL BE UPDATED LATER.

Number of participants: min.5, max.6

Minimum age for participants: 16

As soon as the minimum number of participants is reached, you will be contacted by TUI. TUI will then make you flight proposals for the **international flights.** You can then choose whether to book your flight through TUI or to take care of your international flights yourself. The international flights can be booked at the earliest from 1 January, 2027.

Insurance: It is strongly recommended for every participant to have cancellation and travel insurance.

Force majeure: The photo safaris are normally accompanied by Ingrid Vekemans. Only if Ingrid Vekemans would be prevented through force majeure an alternative - equivalent replacement will be sought in view of a good execution of the travel contract.

Luggage restrictions: To be sure to have enough freedom to move around the vehicle on travel days, maximum one soft travel bag (dimensions maximum h 40cm x d 40cm x l 80cm) per person is allowed as well as the camera bag. Only if every participant sticks to this restriction, the trip will be comfortable for all. The maximum allowed weight of your luggage will depend on the airline with which you book your flight.

Requirements for the participants:

To get the most out of the photographic opportunities, it is advised that you know the basics of photography (regarding ISO/shutter speed/aperture and light metering), such as you might learn in a basic digital photography or a wildlife photography workshop. For recommended gear: see the top of page 3. The safari part of the trip is physically not very demanding because we will always be photographing out of a vehicle. The game drives, however, will start very early in the morning and can last a long time depending on what we see. It can be surprisingly cold, so make sure to pack

enough warm clothing! The days in Lentorre will be more demanding because of the many opportunities available there during the day as well as during nighttime. Participants must make sure to get enough rest. They can choose these moments themselves. Temperatures can increase during the day until about 30°C. Participants have to be in good health.

Participants have to take care of any necessary **vaccinations and medications**. For more information, check https://www.wanda.be/en/. The information on this website needs to be evaluated by the participant in consultation with a qualified physician. Participants must ensure they have a valid international passport (valid for at least 6 months after return) and a Kenyan eTA. The latter must be applied for online several weeks before departure, but detailed instructions will be provided in due time. Indicative fee: USD 35 per person. For the latest updates: http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en.

Finally, respect for nature and the animals is a must!

Participants have to be aware that Africa sometimes requires patience and understanding. Roads can be bumpy, and things may not work as efficiently as at home. The pace of life is slower, which should ultimately benefit us all…

