

Maneaters and red elephants – Amboseli and Tsavo, Kenya (10 days, 9 nights)



This safari takes you to two of Ingrid's favourite places on earth: wildlife paradises Amboseli and Tsavo, where elephants are guaranteed and where 'Matriarch' - Ingrid's most well-known photo - was taken. If we are really lucky, we might even come across that elephant again on this trip!

Ingrid Vekemans, your tour leader and professional nature photographer, has been travelling to Africa for over 25 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 dry season in Kenya. Therefore the wildlife will be more concentrated around areas where water is available, and the vegetation is much less thick. For these two reasons we will be able to spot many more animals than in the low season.

During this trip we will be staying in comfortable tented camps and lodges in the middle of nature. This way you can enjoy the setting and relax before and after the intense game drives.

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 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 and Ingrid will split her time evenly between them.

Besides photographing together, and immediate advice and tips, on the no-travel days you can expect more time with Ingrid. On these days there will be dedicated 'feedback' sessions after lunch, where a selection of photos from each participant can be discussed.

A typical day 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 en route in a suitable 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 – usually a varied buffet - 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!

THIS SAFARI IS OPERATED BY



Day 1

Our tour starts in Nairobi. Early morning, the participants will be met at their hotel from where we will depart to Amboseli in our 4x4's. In the early afternoon we will reach our Amboseli camp, have lunch and then get ready for our first game drive. Amboseli is famous for its many elephants and beautiful views of Mount Kilimanjaro (if it isn't covered by the clouds), but lots of other animals, like lions, hippos and giraffes and numerous bird species inhabit this large park. It is worth mentioning that the lions in this region of Kenya - so also in Tsavo - have very short manes (the reasons for this not being entirely clear yet). The dry Amboseli landscape benefits here and there from Mount Kilimanjaro's melt water, which causes green oases in the otherwise arid scenery. Elephants, buffalos and hippos often spend hours submerged in the water of the swamp. We will spend the night in a tented camp at the entrance of the park, our base for the next two days.

Day 2-3

Every day we get up early for our game drive, while late morning and early afternoon we relax and/or discuss a few photos after lunch. Late afternoon we set off for our game drive again after which we can freshen up before dinner. Afterwards we can discuss the events of the day, or you may choose to go to bed early to enjoy Africa's nighttime sounds before falling into a deep sleep. We are spending several days per park so that we can follow the progress of events as they unfold, but also because the parks are large and every day in Africa is different... Maybe today a lion might be drinking exactly on the spot where yesterday an elephant had been bathing.



Day 4

After breakfast we head for Tsavo West. We will see some game on the way and will arrive around lunchtime in our camp in the middle of the reserve. After lunch, and relaxing for a while, we are ready for our first game drive in Tsavo West. This is real African bush, and is where Denys Finch Hatton (Karen Blixen's lover from 'Out of Africa') truly lost his heart. The park is known for its stunning volcanic scenery with red sand, black lava rock, baobabs and acacia trees, and the Tsavo River drawing all types of wildlife. With a bit of luck we will see buffalos, elephants, lions, hartebeest, kudus, giraffes, zebras and maybe even the elusive leopard. After our first game drive we will return to our lodge, ready for our dinner and a refreshing night's sleep.



Day 5-6

The next two days we will further explore Tsavo West National Park. On these days there will also be photo discussions after lunch.

Day 7

Today we drive towards Tsavo East, where we will arrive around lunchtime . We can check in after lunch for our last few days in this fascinating and inspiring country. Tsavo East is known not only for its red elephants, but also because of the Maneaters of Tsavo – two lions that killed more than 130 people at the end of the 19th century. Luckily this is a long time ago, as well as an exceptional story. The Tsavo East landscape consists mainly of plain, open savannah, where the red sand contrasts greatly with the dry vegetation. There are, however, swamps and rivers that keep the area surrounding it green. Undoubtedly we will see elephants here, because Tsavo East has got the largest elephant population in Kenya. Apart from that we will be looking out for cheetahs, gerenuks, mongoose, jackals, hyenas... in short, there's no lack of animals!



Day 8-9

Further exploration of Tsavo East National Park. Also on these days we will have photo discussions after lunch.

Day 10

Unfortunately our group trip has come to an end. We will do one more morning game drive and will then bid farewell to Tsavo East. We will drive to Nairobi, where we will arrive late afternoon or early evening. We will stop for a last meal together on the way. The trip ends in Jomo Kenyatta airport, where participants can take a flight home. Another possibility is to spend one or more extra nights at the tropical Mombasa coast with its blue water and white beaches, before flying home totally rested and refreshed.

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



Non-exhaustive list of mammals that inhabit Amboseli and Tsavo West and East:

Bushbuck, Kirk's Dik-dik, Abbot's Duiker, Common Duiker, Harvey's Duiker, Eland, Grant's Gazelle, Thomson's Gazelle, Gerenuk, White-bearded Gnu, Coke's Hartebeest, Impala, Klipspringer, Lesser Kudu, Fringe-eared Oryx, Bohor Reedbuck, Steinbok, Common Waterbuck, Cape Buffalo, African Elephant, Maasai Giraffe, Hippopotamus, Bruce's Hyrax, Eastern Tree Hyrax, Rock Hyrax, Southern Tree Hyrax, Black Rhinoceros, Common Warthog, Burchell's Zebra, Aardwolf, Caracal, African Wild Cat, Cheetah, Civet, Hunting Dog, Bat-eared Fox, Large-spotted Genet, Small-spotted Genet, Spotted Hyena, Black-backed Jackal, Side-striped Jackal, Leopard, Lion, Banded Mongoose, Dwarf Mongoose, Grey Mongoose, Marsh Mongoose, Slender Mongoose, White-tailed Mongoose, Ratel, Serval, Zorilla, Savannah Baboon, Lesser Bushbaby, Blue Monkey, Green Vervet Monkey, Aardvark, Cape Hare, Spring Hare, Crested Porcupine

There are more than 500 **bird** species in these three parks, of which you can find a handful of examples underneath:

Lilac-breasted Roller, Ostrich, Purple Heron, Goliath Heron, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Yellow-billed Stork, Saddle-billed Stork, Woolly-necked Stork, Black Stork, Open-billed Stork, Marabu Stork, Hadada Ibis, Sacred Ibis, Secretary Bird, African Fish Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Martial Eagle, Verreaux' Eagle Owl, White-backed Vulture, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Helmeted Guinea Fowl, Vulturine Guinea Fowl, African Jacana, Grey Crowned Crane, Kori Bustard, Blacksmith Plover, White-bellied Go-away-bird, White-browed Coucal, Pearl-spotted Owl, Speckled Mousebird, Pied Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, White-throated Bee-eater, African Hoopoe, Yellow-billed Hornbill, Red-billed Hornbill, Von Der Decken's Hornbill, Southern Ground-hornbill, Paradise Flycatcher, Superb Starling, Cordon Bleu,

...

On top of all this there is of course also a rich **insect and reptile** world, of which the Nile Crocodile is the largest representative.



PRACTICALITIES

TUI

The safari is organised by TUI tours, part of TUI Belgium n.v. The TUI Group is the largest tourism group in the world.

You can apply for your reservation or non-binding price offer with the TUI Belgium n.v. headquarters. To this end you can use the 'PRICE INQUIRY' button on the safari page of the website www.ingridvekemans.com.

The invoice and booking terms and conditions will be sent to you by TUI Belgium n.v. TUI Belgium n.v.'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>. In case of cancellation by the traveller - special cancellation conditions: In case of advance payment of accommodation or other services the cancellation costs can be as high as 100% relatively long before departure. This amount has to be increased with the compensation charged by the airline and the administration costs in accordance with the time of cancellation.

The **price** of the trip is 4690€ and is based on sharing a double or twin room. The supplement for a single room will be 460€. 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 and fuel increases.

Safari period: 14 until 23 August 2023

The price is inclusive of airport transfers, accommodation in comfortable lodges and tented camps (9 nights), all meals, transport by 4x4 vehicles throughout, bottled water in the vehicles, game drives (two per day unless on travel days), Flying Doctors service, experienced drivers/guides, park entry fees, guiding and advice about the animals and how to photograph them, photo analyses and an experienced and passionate tour leader!

The price excludes the international flight and related taxes, extra hotel night before departure of the safari, Kenya visa, passport costs, travel insurance, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, tips, personal expenses.

Minimum number of participants: minimum 5 (maximum 7) participants

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.

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: In order 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 international flight.

Requirements for the participants:

Beginners, as well as more experienced photographers (and their partners) are welcome to join this trip. In order to get the most out of the photographic opportunities, it is however 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 workshop or a wildlife photography workshop. 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. Participants therefore have to be in good health. It can be surprisingly cold, so make sure to pack enough warm clothing!

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 have to make sure they have a **valid international passport (valid at least another 6 months after the date of return) and a visa** for Kenya. Kenya has introduced an e-visa for all arrivals from 1 September 2015. This new visa can no longer be obtained on arrival at the local airport. It has to be requested online a few weeks before departure via www.ecitizen.go.ke. Click "register" and choose "visitor". Make an account, follow the instructions and fill in the application form. You will need to have a digital passport photograph handy. Payment is possible with Visa or Mastercard. A few days later you will receive your e-visa in your mailbox. Print it and show it on arrival in Kenya to the immigrations officer. Ask the Kenyan embassy in your country for more information. For the last update: see <https://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...