

THE WALKING PARTY

'A TASTE OF KENYA' : Nairobi/Samburu/Malindi

Price: £4500 per person Time of year suggested: August or December/January
Walking mornings only. Distance: 50 miles approx.



This itinerary can be adapted to the wishes of a group if coming as a group. It is a safari that has been geared to blend the wild mountainous bush of the Samburu region with the beauty of the East African coast at the town of Malindi.

The itinerary can be adapted in ways such as extending the walking experience. This would allow you to get further into the forests prolonging the unique experience of being at one with nature. Eight days would be the maximum we would recommend for this sort of safari. Anyone who has done this experience has called it one of the most extraordinary times of their life! With ten days on foot we would recommend the rest of the safari to be spent at the coast!

A day trip to Lake Magadi could also be a good idea. This is without doubt my favourite lake. It is one of the great soda lakes of the Rift Valley and a breeding ground for flamingos. It is very hot down there but extraordinarily beautiful. We offer this lake as a main part of our other Kenya itinerary. It is a good hour's drive through wonderful scenery and a worthwhile experience for those wishing to add more to their Kenya experience. All driving experiences though are very different to driving experiences in Europe! This can be discussed with the group organiser.

An additional plus coming with The Walking Party are the private lunches, near Nairobi and at the coast, in the family houses owned by your hosts James and Diana Tamlyn where you will meet family friends who have lived in Kenya all their life.

PROPOSED ITINERARY including Tana river delta:

Day 1 You arrive at 20.45 at Jomo Kenyatta airport where you will be met by James and Diana and driven to the Fairview Hotel just on the outskirts of Nairobi. This is a good place to stay on the side of Nairobi that we will want to 'to and fro' from thus avoiding awful traffic possibilities! Dinner at the Fairview.

Day 2 You awake to the lovely sounds of birds before we join for breakfast in the Muthaiga dining room. Time to relax before we take the vehicles to the elephant orphanage of Daphne Sheldrick. This has gained a great deal of celebrity through the BBC and Daphne Sheldrick has been made a dame of the British Empire through her fantastic work with elephant orphans. With her team she successfully rears abandoned elephants and reintroduces them to a herd in Tsavo East Game Park. Lunch at Diana's father's house with old time Kenyan friends and hopefully Daphne herself, overlooking the Ngong Hills and the Croton and Eucalyptus tree forest. Drive to Giraffe manor to feed the giraffes before returning to the Fairview for an afternoon swimming and reading. Dinner at the Fairview.

Day 3 SAMBURU CAMEL SAFARI We take a flight from Nairobi's Wilson airport to Nanyuki near Mount Kenya from where we catch a chartered Cessna plane to fly to a great friend's camp above the Milgis river near the Ndoto and Matthews mountains. You get your first glimpse of the extraordinary beauty of the Rift Valley here some few thousand feet up! As we approach the Samburu region the mountains rise out of semi arid bush country to some 9000 feet. It is a land peopled by the Samburu and Rendille tribes both of which are very skilled with camels which of course lends itself to the point of camel trekking! We will spend the night with Helen at her camp and eat and drink around the fire. You are miles from anywhere here in a landscape that takes you back to the roots of mankind.

Day 4 You set off early morning. This is indeed quite early ... about 5.30 o'clock! Of course this is the ideal time to walk though. The sun always rises in Kenya at six o'clock so we will be rising at dawn. Just a cup of tea before we start a walk to earn our breakfast. It is remarkable to see just how well the Samburu put together a safari breakfast. A fire is made within seconds (without matches) and eggs, bacon, hot coffee etc. are conjured up in the shade of an expansive yellow fever tree. No great grey green greasy river here though, just a fantastic dry landscape and we smell the great African air and see the enormity of African sky and watch the weaver birds or the soft cooing of the mourning dove. In fact all our senses are set to work. There is nothing like the smells and chatter of the African bush. We walk on after breakfast by which time the camping camel train have caught us up and much Samburu singing ensues. It gets hot and by lunch time we are feeling hungry! Lunch is where the evening's camp is set up. In the afternoon after a wonderful bush lunch a siesta is called for and time off enjoying one's surroundings. The cool of the evening is perfect for a stroll or climbing a rocky outcrop to admire the views and absorb the total tranquillity of the bush at dusk. On return to the camp hot showers are available and the camels are settled for the night as we sit around the fire with our evening drinks waiting for dinner to be served by candle light. *7 miles*



Days 5 and 6 A few climbs to do to get beautiful views of the valley. The dry river beds can be up to a kilometre wide. Thankfully we do not walk in the rainy season when these luggas can flash flood in a couple of minutes. A dramatically exciting moment but maybe a little hazardous for us gentle folk when walking innocently along these river beds! Carmine breasted bee eaters might be amongst some of the more exotic birds that we come across and Bateleurs those most majestic of birds of prey. It is truly a bird paradise. We will carry on up the hills hopefully catching the samburu whistling at their cows to come and drink one by one in the mountain spring. Lunch in the glorious shade again and the afternoon relaxing maybe with a game of rounders in the lugga. Dinner again round the fire with stories before bed. *7 miles each day*

Day 7 and 8 We walk along the valley hopefully seeing some gazelle or gerenuk and bush buck and signs of the lion we may have heard roaring the night before. Signs meaning tracks! Beautiful views over the Ndoto mountains. Today we come across a well so beautifully crafted out of the sandy earth and a welcome drink for the goats and of course the camels. As we eat our lunch again the camp is set up. The camels browse whilst the comfortable mattresses are laid in hardy mosquito net tents for another night under the stars. There is such a thrill sleeping under the African canopy of crystal clear sky so fretted with stars, listening to the crickets and the crackle of the fire and the hollow tock of the camel bells. One almost feels reluctant to turn in to bed! *8 miles each day*



Day 9 Waking up at dawn is becoming a beautiful habit and the thought of another safari breakfast shines bright in the distance as you sip your tea and listen to the distinctive sound of the emerald spotted wood dove. A mournful song indeed where she is supposed to be crying "You're house is on fire and you're children are all gone, gone, gone, gone!" Leaving on a happy note therefore you walk below the beautiful acacias and whistling thorns with stunning views of the African bush. Breakfast is such a unique affair. The beauty of all this in fact is well summarised by Attila G. Szekely "*For me it has clarified the issues in life that are important and rendered mole hills of the mountains we create with the petty issues that seem so important at times.*" We walk back across the plains and down the river luggas. It is extraordinary to think that such tribes survive in this beautiful arid bush but the mountains are capped in cool highland forest and drained by crystal clear streams, and every nomad and wild animal for hundreds of miles knows they will find water under the brown sand of the famous Milgis and Seiya luggas, no matter how dry the season. This is a song day as the Samburu are getting happy with the thought of returning to their wives. The songs change from the daily concert of Samburu warriors herding or watering their cattle "Come hither, the water is pure!" to ones of "Ahey kua herota bwunes" meaning "Kill the calf we are home tonight". Last camp around the fire before the plane tomorrow. *7 miles*

Day 10 DRIFTWOOD CLUB MALINDI After breakfast we fly back to Nairobi to catch a plane to back to Malindi for three nights at the lovely Driftwood Club. This is a wonderfully informal place to stay and which is very popular with the old time Kenyans. It is situated right on the beach and we stay in the cottages that are set in the palm trees. Lunch at the Driftwood. In the afternoon time to take it easy, swim in the pool, swim in the sea, read a book, sit there wasting time ...

Day 11 A short break after breakfast before a chance, for those interested, in taking a boat out to the wonderful coral reef to snorkel. It is a very relaxing time one spends floating on the salt of the sea looking at the beautifully coloured fish looking at you looking at them. An indifference that can only lead to relaxation. The fish are so various: Butterfly, Angel, Clown, Lion, Bat, Moon, Trigger, Pipe all of different shapes, sizes and habits. There's a hierarchy down there! For those non swimmers the boats are glass bottomed so you can still see the coral and anyway just to be out drifting in the beautiful sea with the sun and breeze is a wonderful experience! We may then walk to Diana's father's beach house for lunch or lunch at the Driftwood. Easy beach afternoon. Dinner in Malindi.



Day 12 An easy day visiting the town of Malindi or just reading and enjoying being on the beach! An optional return to the reef or deep sea fish or visit to the local snake farm! Sunday lunch at the Driftwood is a time for the colonials to gather! Dinner at the Driftwood.

Day 13 HOMEWARD BOUND After breakfast and a last walk along the beach we will take the mid-morning flight to Nairobi in time for a last lunch at Diana's father's house in Langata. We will relax at the house before having dinner at the famous Carnivore restaurant and then on to the airport for the return flight home!

NOTE: The itinerary is subject to change according to local conditions. All mileages shown are approximate.

GAME PARKS? GAME AND THE BIG FIVE

We strongly recommend that you continue your safari towards the great safari parks that Kenya has to offer. Here you will fulfil your desire of seeing the great game life of the savannah: lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant, hippo ... and giraffe, zebra, cheetah and so the list goes on. Of course some game parks like Amboseli have few lions but have the huge mountain of Kilimanjaro that dominates the scene and the landscape is eerie and dust like. Other game parks like Samburu have unusual animals specific to the region like gerenuks and Grevy's zebras and reticulated giraffes and Diana and I are of course here to suggest which particular park may be suited to your needs and which company might be the best to do this with. Please do not hesitate to talk to us about this.



Samburu Game Park Grevy's Zebra



Shaba Park Gerenuk