

Gerlach Nature Photography

Kenya Wildlife Photo Safari

Amboseli – Samburu – Masai Mara

with John Gerlach and Dixie Calderone

Only 3 Participants per Vehicle-The best safari vehicles and drivers- Chartered Flights
between Game Parks-Deluxe Accommodations

15 Days in Kenya

One rest day at the hotel when you arrive in Kenya

Highly experienced Kenya driver-guides we know well!

John & Dixie are terrific tour leaders - John has led over forty previous photo tours to Kenya

In Country: January 16 - 30, 2027

This is the perfect photo tour for photographing Kenya's birds and mammals!



A Masai Mara Sunrise with the iconic Acacia Tree

We have run this schedule for the past two safaris, and it has been absolutely terrific!

John led his first Kenya photo tour in 1981. That experience changed his life! Over 45 years John has led at least 40 tours to photograph wildlife in Kenya's best game parks. The wildlife, people, and overall African experience continues to make Kenya our favorite place for wildlife photography. Travel with John and Dixie for the trip of a lifetime! You will have a fabulous time photographing Kenya's wildlife under the expert guidance of John and Dixie and their favorite hand-picked native Kenya driver-guides.



Figure 1 Our driver-guides who know the needs of photographers. Left to right: Stanley, Tom, Edwin, Ben, Peter, and Nick.

We will photograph the wildlife at Amboseli, Samburu, and the spectacular Masai Mara. Each park is quite different from the others, and they all offer unique wildlife photo opportunities. Amboseli is teeming with an immense variety of birds and mammals that are attracted to the wetlands in the dry environment. Amboseli is known for the largest elephants in Africa, and the wetlands are loaded with birds and mammals. Samburu is the desert park where the Ewaso Nyiro river flows through and wildlife abound along this river corridor where water is otherwise scarce in this dry environment. Many species are unique to this park, including Somali ostrich, Beisa oryx, Reticulated giraffe, Grevy's zebra, Gunther's dik-dik and gerenuk. And the abundant birdlife is amazing! We complete our trip with the most days in the grasslands of the famous Masai Mara that are teeming with mammals and birds, and it is the best place to photograph cheetahs, leopards, and lions.

Everyone wants to photograph the big cats -- cheetah, leopard, and lions. We are always looking for them and will photograph them anytime we find them. Plus, we photograph all the other mammals when they are in photogenic spots and in excellent light. All photo tours do that. We are different from

other tours by photographing numerous colorful birds. Kenya hosts over 1100 bird species, and we can readily identify a few hundred of the species you are most likely to see. John and Dixie are keen to help tour participants photograph as many species as possible.

Important Advantages offered with our Deluxe Kenya Photo Safari

Your Own Row in the Safari Vehicle!

Having a window seat is terrific if the animal is on your side of the vehicle, but not good at all if you wish to successfully photograph an animal on the other side of the vehicle when you have another passenger in front of you. Though it cost more money, each participant has their own row in the vehicle making it easy to photograph out both sides of the vehicle, either from the lower windows or the open roof hatch. This provides ample room for you, your gear, and your access to the wildlife is always excellent.

Fly Between Parks!

Kenya has become more prosperous over the decades. There are far more vehicles using the roads. The congestion on Kenya's roads is incredible. Clouds of dust, diesel fumes, small motorcycles everywhere, stops with super poor restroom facilities are the norm, plus you lose lots of time that is better spent photographing in the game parks where tourist facilities are first-rate. Therefore, to avoid all this and make your wonderful trip the best ever, we have arranged to fly between parks using private charters. Our game-drivers will drive your luggage to the next park, and you will fly carrying just what you need including camera gear until they catch up to us. A couple times, we will take game drives with the camp's drivers when waiting for our driver-guides to catch up to us. While flying does increase the price of your trip, it makes your trip **much** easier on you! You will love viewing Kenya from the air! Air flights included in the tour price: Nairobi to Amboseli (45 minutes), Amboseli to Samburu (90 minutes), Samburu to Masai Mara (90 minutes), and Masai Mara to Nairobi (45 minutes). Our flights are all private charters, so our group flies together! Flying lets us have more time on game drives and more photo opportunities.

We traveled like this for the first time a few years ago. It is tremendous! We cannot imagine enduring the awful roads when it is so easy to fly from park to park. This is a huge upgrade that makes your trip much better!

Two Nights to Rest Before Visiting the Parks

You will be exhausted after flying for nearly 20 hours from your home to Nairobi, Kenya. You arrive in the evening and are taken directly to the hotel. Often you will not get to bed until 10pm local time or later. By the next morning you are physically not ready to start visiting and photographing in the parks, so we give you the entire day to rest and get a full night to sleep. During the day at the hotel, we meet everyone and teach important photo skills and help you set up your cameras to best advantage. Then you can have a normal night of sleep, have breakfast at the hotel, and transfer you to the nearby airport for our first flight to Amboseli and all the wildlife! You will love it!!!!

Expert Driver-guides

We hand pick our driver-guides who are highly experienced and educated. They are especially tuned into the needs of wildlife photographers. They have guided us many times and know exactly what we are looking for.

Highly Experienced Tour Guides

Both John and Dixie are super experienced professional photographers. Dixie shoots Nikon and John uses Canon. John and Dixie have taught dozens of photo workshops together over the years and John has led more than 40 previous photo tours to Kenya beginning in 1981. Kenya is their favorite tour destination!!!! Plus, in addition to mammals, John and Dixie are both keen bird photographers, so you will photograph more impressive birds on this tour than you expect! While we will always go for the mammals when spotted, this time of year is excellent for local and migrating birds also.

Safari Overview

Day by Day Itinerary

January 16, 2027

Arrive Nairobi JKIA, meet and transfer to hotel by private vehicle

VIP airside meet and assist

Tamarind Tree Hotel – Standard Room BB-Bed and Breakfast

Arriving at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA)

Upon arrival at JKIA, please make use of the usual “fly-bridge” or “airport bus service” for transfer from the aircraft to the terminal building. As you enter the airport building you shall be met by our VIP Airside Assistance personnel. They shall guide you through “passport control, checked baggage collection and customs,” and finally through the exit to the public arrivals area where you shall be met by our Origins Safaris Guest Relations Officer who will assist you from that point onwards and be with you throughout your time in Nairobi.

January 17, 2027

Tamarind Tree Hotel – Standard Room LDBB – Lunch, Dinner, Bed, Breakfast

We spend the entire day at the Tamarind Tree Hotel. Why? You just spent about 20 consecutive hours flying from your home to Nairobi. Trust us! You need some time to recover from all that flying. By spending two nights at a high-class hotel to start your trip, you will be well rested and have the time to get organized for what is to follow. John and Dixie eat meals with everyone and have an official “meet and greet” in the morning. In the afternoon, we will gather the group and go over camera details and photo strategies that work well in Kenya. This means bring your cameras and we will help you set any specific camera settings that you should be using. This “rest” day helps everyone do so much better with their photography.

January 18, 2027

Fly to Amboseli National Park

Fly for approximately 45 minutes southwards across “maasailand” to Amboseli National Park. Met on arrival by your local guide for an exploratory game drive en-route to camp arriving in time for lunch and a further afternoon game drive. The Amboseli ecosystem is unique. No other place in Africa combines the special hydrology, topography, geological and cultural history of Amboseli. Despite modest rainfall, a system of swamps fed by the Kilimanjaro Mountain Forest catchment supports a spectacular array of birds and mammals, dominated in terms of biomass and visibility by a population of some 1400 African elephants. In recognition of Amboseli’s special combination of ecology and culture, UNESCO and the Kenya government designated the region a Man and the Biosphere reserve in 1991 to conserve its biodiversity.

Overnight: Ol Tukai Lodge – Standard Room LDBB

January 19, 2027

Enjoy a full day of game-viewing and photography within Amboseli National Park lying below the most famous symbol of Africa—Mt. Kilimanjaro. Enjoy the beautiful views of Mt. Kilimanjaro right from camp. Morning field trips begin shortly before sunrise and last till late morning. We take a break during the middle of the day when the light is unfavorable and the wildlife are resting in the shade, and then we take our afternoon field trip till sunset. Note: For all morning field trips, we take a packed breakfast with us and eat at safe places in the park. You will love this!

Overnight: Ol Tukai Lodge – Standard Room LDBB

January 20, 2027

A full day of game photography in Amboseli National Park.

Overnight: Ol Tukai Lodge – Standard Room LDBB

January 21, 2027 Amboseli National Park to Samburu Game Reserve

Board your private charter aircraft and fly for about 90 minutes northwards via Nanyuki and Mt. Kenya and onto the Samburu National Reserve. Rugged and remote, this wildlife reserve provides some of the best and most colorful game photography in the country. Met on arrival by your local guide and transferred to your camp for lunch and afternoon game drive. Samburu is home to six special big game species not seen elsewhere: Grevy’s zebra, Reticulated Giraffe, Somali Ostrich, Gerenuk, Guenther’s Dik-Dik and Beisa Oryx.

Overnight: Elephant Bedroom Camp – Ensuite Tent LDBB

January 22, 2027 Samburu Game Reserve

Full day of game photography in the Samburu Game Reserve.

Overnight: Elephant Bedroom Camp – Ensuite Tent LDBB

January 23, 2027 Samburu Game Reserve

Full day of game photography in the Samburu Game Reserve.

Overnight: Elephant Bedroom Camp – Ensuite Tent LDBB

January 24, 2027 Samburu Game Reserve

Full day of game photography in Samburu.

Overnight: Elephant Bedroom Camp – Ensuite Tent LDBB

January 25, 2027 Samburu Game Reserve – Mara (Private) Conservancy

Fly for 90 minutes over the Great Rift Valley and onto the Masai Mara National Reserve offering wonderful volcanic scenery, rolling grasslands and plenty of big game. Met on arrival by your local guide and transferred to camp for lunch and an afternoon game drive. The Mara/Serengeti eco-system is perhaps the only region left in Africa where the visitor may see animals similar to the super abundance that existed a century ago.

Game drive the short distance into the Mara concession areas. Then an afternoon game drive till sunset.

Karen Blixen Camp – Ensuite Tent LDBB

January 26, 2027 Mara (Private) Conservancy

Full day of wildlife photography in the private conservancies surrounding the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Karen Blixen Camp – Ensuite Tent LDBB

January 27, 2027 Mara (Private) Conservancy - Masai Mara Game Reserve

We pack up this morning and enjoy a wonderful early breakfast in camp. Then we take a game drive the rest of the morning to arrive at Intrepids Camp in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve around noon.

Afternoon wildlife photo drive.

Overnight: Mara Intrepids Camp – Ensuite Tent LDBB

January 28, 2027 Masai Mara Game Reserve

Morning and afternoon photography game drives in the Masai Mara.

Overnight: Mara Intrepids Camp – Ensuite Tent LDBB

January 29, 2027 Masai Mara Game Reserve

Morning and afternoon wildlife photography game drives in the Masai Mara.

Overnight: Mara Intrepids Camp – Ensuite Tent LDBB

January 30, 2027 Masai Mara Reserve – Nairobi, Kenya

After an early morning game drive, you shall be transferred to the nearby airstrip for a private charter flight back to Nairobi. Wilson arrival transfer by private vehicle to Utamaduni craft center/Mat Bronze for last minute shopping including lunch in the area.

Day room at Tamarind Tree – Standard Room to let you rest and have one last shower. Then we have dinner at the hotel and transfer to the airport.

JKIA arrival transfer by private vehicle

VIP Airside departure assistance

Number of Participants

The group is limited to 13 participants, in addition to John and Dixie. Each safari vehicle accommodates up to three guests, ensuring that every individual has their own row of seats in the Land Cruiser. This arrangement affords ample space for personal equipment and facilitates unobstructed photography from all vantage points within the vehicle. The utilization of multiple safari vehicles enhances the overall experience; during game drives, each vehicle traverses distinct routes through comparable regions of the expansive parks, optimizing wildlife viewing opportunities. While species such as giraffes, zebras, and gazelles are commonly sighted and photographed, more elusive wildlife—such as prides of lions, baby jackals, leopards, or cheetahs—are often discovered by only one vehicle. In these instances, the driver promptly communicates the location via radio, enabling all participants to photograph the remarkable find. Increased vehicle coverage leads to a higher likelihood of encountering exceptional wildlife and capturing outstanding photographs.

Included in the Tour Price

- All meals beginning with breakfast on your first day in Nairobi through dinner on your last night. Typically, our flight home depart around 11pm local time.
- All hotel and lodge accommodations
- All park fees
- Your private row of seats in the safari vehicle with superb native guides
- Tuition for John and Dixie's leadership
- Pickup and delivery to the airport
- All Kenya chartered flights
- A visit to an authentic Samburu village
- A sundowner

What is not Included:

- Transportation to and from Nairobi
- Alcoholic drinks
- Any items of a personal nature such as trip insurance
- Tips to the driver-guides who will become your good friends. Budget \$450 cash for driver tips and you may want to give a few dollars to camp staff that are helping you a lot with luggage and other matters.

- We know a Kenya photo tour is expensive. We prefer you tip our driver-guides and local staff as they need the income. John and Dixie **do not** accept tips for their services.



Figure 2 Topi with a hungry calf.



Imagine a Leopard walking toward you! It is exciting when this happens.!!!!

Key Photo Skills You Will Learn:

- Learn in-depth wildlife photography techniques
- How to skillfully use long lenses from a safari vehicle
- How to set excellent exposures for JPEG or RAW files quickly and easily
- How to use the powerful Auto ISO exposure mode that is so useful on an African safari
- Why you should not restrict shutter speeds, apertures, or ISOs
- How to shoot sharp images consistently
- Use autofocus precisely and quickly
- How to shoot automatic focus stacks for sharper wildlife scenes
- How to use front, side, back, and reflected light to best advantage
- Compose wildlife images better
- Why quality zoom lenses are so useful on an African safari



This leopard emerges from the bush to offer a nice pose for a few seconds. Learn to shoot precisely and fast!

John and Dixie are avid photography instructors who have no secrets. We teach you everything. We know you want to become a super photographer because that makes photography more fun and rewarding. While we teach the ultimate photo skills you must master to shoot superb images, they are easy to learn. You will advance your photo skills by several levels. This goal is especially easy to achieve because we are with you the entire tour in Kenya to guide you and continually teach you about

photographing wildlife. And with an abundance of wildlife to photograph all the time, you get tons of opportunities to practice new photo skills.



Coke's hartebeest youngster. Drier and sunnier January follows the rainy season of November and December. Many baby mammals are found on safari in January.

Accommodation Information

Tamarind Tree - Standard Room – Nairobi, Kenya

Tamarind Tree Hotel is ideally located just 5 kms to the southwest of Nairobi within the spacious Carnivore grounds and its iconic Carnivore Restaurant. The hotel offers easy access to its national park and the Wilson Airport that we use to begin and end our Kenya safari.

Tamarind Tree Hotel is perfect for both the business and leisure traveler. Amenities are world-class! Guest will experience the best of Tamarind hospitality.

The comfort of our guests is of paramount importance, and our commitment is reflected in the quality and finishing of our rooms. Each of the 160 guest rooms and suites has been exquisitely designed using modern fittings while expressing an authentic earthy feel. All rooms are air-conditioned, have complimentary Wi-Fi; a 43-inch flat-screen television with international satellite channels; complimentary in-room tea and coffee facilities.

Standard Rooms

Our spacious Standard Rooms are impressive - the largest of this room type in Nairobi. The rooms are modern with a charming earthy décor and are bathed in natural light to create a relaxing ambience. Maximum 3 Adults.

The Tamarind Tree Hotel offers a variety of wining and dining venues. Whether relaxing over afternoon tea in the Dawa Lounge, sipping your favorite cocktail by the pool, or dining at the iconic Tamambo Restaurant, there are opportunities to indulge your every taste. For light bites, our 24-hour Duka Coffee Shop offers an impressive selection of fresh and healthy snacks.

Fact file:

- * King-size bed or twin beds
- * Blackout curtains
- * 43-inch flat screen TV with international sports & news
- * Work desk with comfortable chair

- * Complimentary tea, coffee & water
- * Rain shower
- * In-room safe
- * Hairdryer
- * Independent air-conditioning
- * Complimentary High-speed Wi-Fi
- * International plugs and USB charging plugs



Ol Tukai Lodge – Standard Room – Amboseli National Park

Ol Tukai Lodge is one of the best spots in the world to watch elephants with the backdrop of Africa's highest mountain - Mount Kilimanjaro. Writers have described Ol Tukai and the surrounding Amboseli National Park as a home for the Gods.' A place of rugged beauty, abundant water, lush grass and forest, set like an oasis in surrounding savannah scrub. To crown it all, the Gods look upon one of the world's most awe-inspiring sites – as dawn breaks and the sun sets from the 19,000 foot snow-capped dome of Africa's highest mountain.

Ol Tukai Lodge is a high-class tourist resort situated in the heart of Amboseli National Park, which is one of East Africa's most fascinating wildlife and nature parks. The lodge has eight guest bedrooms and was opened in April 1996. The property has received overwhelming response from the international and local tourism market.

The buildings are spaciously laid out, and the property has well maintained flat lawns, gardens and wide-open spaces. It is an ideal spot for star-gazers in the African tropical nights. The property overlooks Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro and the Amboseli plain to the south and the eastern boundary is home to several families of elephants and known to be amongst the best spots in the world to watch elephants.

The design concept of the property was inspired by the beautiful topography to take full advantage of the flat plains on one side and the lush Acacia tree forest on the other. The buildings are designed to give an open generous atmosphere with a blend of traditional African flavor yet having all the modern conveniences. The buildings have covered terraces built in gum pole and timber structures, with changing views and interests throughout the whole scheme. Ol Tukai is one of the most modern lodges in East Africa having extremely well developed and equipped servicing and operational facilities, far superior to any of its main competitors.

Our mission is to conserve the environment through the effective and efficient running of our eco-friendly lodge. To uplift the living standards of the local community and provide quality service and value for money to our valued clients. And our vision is to be a recognized brand and the leading tourist destination in Amboseli and the world over.

Fact file:

- * 80 Chalet-style en suite Twin Rooms
- * 3 bedroomed Kibo Villa
- * Uninterrupted views of the wetlands or Kilimanjaro
- * Manicured lawns, gardens & wide open spaces
- * Ideal spot for star-gazers
- * Beauty Spa, Art boutique & Chapel, Gift Shop



Karen Blixen Camp – Ensuite Tent

Karen Blixen Camp is an eco-friendly luxury camp that gives a sense of the exiting explorer days when the savannah was seldom visited and elaborate, and comfortable camps were set up providing a luxurious and stylish retreat after each day's adventure.

Karen Blixen Camp encompasses 22 large luxury canvas tents - each set on a beautiful wooden platform with a spacious veranda. On the cushion daybeds one can enjoy an afternoon siesta, taking in the wonderful surroundings. Each tent is en-suite and furnished with a large comfortable bed, Persian rugs and a cozy armchair giving you the ultimate in camping luxury. The private bathroom has a flush toilet, twin wash hand basins and a romantic outside shower with amazing view to the sky. The water is heated up by gas burners to avoid any use of firewood and thus conserving the Mara Woodlands. Electricity is provided in all tents 24-hours a day by extended solar panel system and battery storing bank.

Tents can be configured for either double or twin occupancy. All tents are placed with undisturbed view along the Mara River giving unique and private game viewing to the Oloololo Escarpment and its rich wildlife.

The open plan 'mess' area, built on a raised wooden deck, is beautifully located on the banks of the Mara River overlooking a resident hippo pod providing our guests with endless entertainment. The mess area comprises the reception, the restaurant, and the lounge area with a home-style bar. Comfortable sofas give a welcoming and cozy retreat for the weary traveler while enjoying a before-dinner drink. Around the campfire one can share the safari adventure of the day, listen to the sounds of the night, and look at the magnificent African starlit sky.

Karen Blixen was passionate about cooking and found her inspiration in the French, English, Italian and Danish kitchens. Through historical books we have found many of her original recipes, and dining at the Camp brings back the days of the early 1920-30's. Modern day's love for cosmopolitan food with clear notes from East Asia, India or Africa's own traditional cooking is also served at our table alongside a comprehensive selection of the continents finest wines. Breakfasts, lunches, and dinners are served in the restaurant or bush garden from where one has an incredible close view of the Mara River and the wild animals coming to drink.

Karen Blixen Camp has the most amazing location for relaxed armchair game viewing. The camp gives undisturbed view to the abundance of wildlife coming down for a drink at the Mara River. Karen Blixen Camp encourages exquisite safari experiences. Guests are truly able to relax and get revitalized in these beautiful and peaceful Masai Mara surroundings.

The camp is carefully located opposite a much-favored drinking spot. The Mara riverbank curves gently down in an open sandy bed and gives the wild animals an easy access to the mineral rich soil and the river water, providing guests endless entertainment.

Fact file:

- * 22 large luxury canvas tents each with a spacious veranda
- * En-suite bathroom with flush toilet, twin wash hand basins & outside shower
- * Open plan 'mess' area on a raised wooden deck
- * Undisturbed view along the Mara River
- * Campfire



Elephant Bedroom Camp – Ensuite Tent – Samburu National Reserve

Elephant Bedroom Camp offers luxury in a setting of breath-taking beauty. It is set along the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River and shaded by doum palms and other trees that make up this green belt of riverine forest in Samburu National Reserve. Elephant Bedroom Camp is an intimate tented camp with simplistic elegance, luxury and style providing an astonishing safari experience.

The surrounding Samburu National Reserve is an area of spectacular scenery; its dry plains bisected by the meandering river, with the backdrop of Africa's dramatic mountains, including Mt Kenya. The twelve spacious insect-proof bedroom tents have rustic and colorful African touches, offering all the comforts; including a private plunge pool on the deck, a private veranda overlooking the river,

en-suite bathroom fitted with double wash basins, hot and cold running water, a flushing toilet and a rain shower, electricity (and complimentary herbal shower and bath products).

The lounge and dining area is decorated with vibrant safari style, its soft intimate lighting assuring that this is the ultimate place to relax in between exciting game drives. Elephant, Monkeys, Impalas are amongst the camp's regular wild visitors, whilst Samburu National Reserve has good numbers of lions and leopards and offers the opportunity to see many species endemic to northern Kenya.

Fact file:

- * Twelve spacious tents (2 king size double beds & ten queen size twin beds)
- * En-suite bathroom with dressing area
- * Spacious dining & lounge tent with large veranda to maximize views
- * Free Wi-Fi
- * Excellent food, fresh & high-quality ingredients
- * 240V charging facilities in the lounge

Mara Intrepids Camp – Ensuite Tent – Masai Mara National Reserve

On the vast savannah grasslands of the Masai Mara National Reserve with the Talek flowing past, Mara Intrepids Camp is set in deliciously wild country. Your spacious tented abode gives you that signature view of the endless Mara plains.

Overlooking the Talek River, at the very confluence of the Mara's four game-viewing areas, Mara Intrepids Camp enjoys one of the most spectacular locations in the world's best-known wilderness. It is a short drive from the Mara River, where abundant wildlife gathers to drink. The camp offers some of the world's finest game viewing, with large local populations of plains game, elephants, rhinos, buffalos, and all the Big Cats. In 2004, some 75% of the footage for the BBC's famous Big Cat Diary was shot in the vicinity of the camp.

Mara Intrepids is 298 kilometers and a six-hour drive from Nairobi. The all-weather airstrip enables guests to be at the camp within 45 minutes of leaving the capital. We will be flying to avoid the dusty and bumpy roads.

Mara Intrepids Camp is made up of 30 tents widely spread across a large riverside site to ensure guests get optimum privacy and peace. Recently refurbished to accommodate the modern, discerning safari traveler, the tents are large and spacious with private verandas to enjoy the plains, giving infinite views of the Mara. It is luxury in the wild. The camp is secured by an electric fence to ward off animals and has 24-hour security.

Luxury Tents: Sitting on a shady raised platform facing the Talek River, each luxury tent covers approximately 26 sq. meters and is fitted with a 150cmX190cm queen size bed or two twin beds of 90cmX190cm. It is furnished in the classic style of the grand African safaris; with large poster beds and reproduction furniture, offset by modern en-suite bathroom with a hot shower; flush toilets and all the necessary amenities.

Fact file:

- * 30 luxurious modern tents with secluded verandas
- * Small riverfront dining areas with private catering
- * Bar/Lounge
- * Freeform swimming pool
- * Conference room
- * Elevated game-viewing platform with bar service
- * Custom-built 4X4 safari vehicles
- * Dependable 240-volt electricity generator supply
- * Safety deposit boxes
- * Laundry
- * Board games & guests' reference library
- * Boutique with souvenirs & safari essentials
- * Free Wi-Fi in public areas



Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta Airport

Arriving at JKIA:

Upon arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) please make use of the standard "fly-bridge" or "airport bus service" for the transfer from aircraft to the terminal building. Follow the signs through to "passport control, baggage collections and customs." Remember to complete the "a landing card" or "visa application form" (whichever is applicable on your inbound flight in advance). As you exit the luggage hall and walk into the public arrivals area, you shall be met by our Origins Safaris Guest Relations Officer who shall assist you from that point onwards.

Departing from JKIA:

You will be accompanied by an Origins Safaris Guest Relations Officer to the "second security checkpoint at the departure terminal." It is worth noting that there are currently three layers of security to access the departure area at the airport. On approach to the airport, you will be required to exit the vehicle you are travelling in and walk through a security checkpoint with scanners. Once you have cleared the scanners you will need to wait for your vehicle, which is also being screened. On arrival at the terminal, there is a luggage and body scan to enter the airport buildings. After this you may check in your luggage and pass through to document security and immigration. You will then take an escalator to your departure gate where you will pass through the final security checkpoint.

Private charter flight Cessna C208B Grand Caravan

The Cessna Grand Caravan C208B is a twelve-seat, single engine Cessna. Durable landing gear means you can count on smooth landings. The main gear is a massive steel tube linked directly to the fuselage. Its flexible design is perfect for grass, gravel, and even unimproved airstrips. The nose gear is engineered to absorb both vertical and lateral force by transmitting it to the fuselage. And large, rough-field tires contribute further to the Caravan's rugged flexibility. The Garmin G1000 glass cockpit integrates all primary flight, engine, and sensor data to provide intuitive, at-a-glance situational awareness, in a paperless cockpit. Our pilots have between 3,000 - 13,000 hours all incident free throughout their careers. Additionally, all pilots have FAA (USA) licenses in addition to Kenyan licenses and attend regular factory approved re-current training at Flight Safety International in Wichita, Kansas, where Cessna is based.



Our Photo Strategy

We are pleased to offer wildlife safaris in Kenya, where typically favorable weather conditions and excellent opportunities for wildlife photography await. Of all the workshops John has coordinated over the past 50 years, Kenya remains his most frequently conducted photo tour. Many participants return after experiencing the highlights of Kenya's game parks. Feedback from clients indicates that Kenya is among the most memorable trips they have taken. Our Kenya photo tour continues to be our most popular and often repeated offering.

We leave our lodges at 6:15 am to photograph active wildlife in the early light. Breakfast is eaten in the field around 9 am, and we return by 11:30 am for lunch and a midday break to avoid the intense equatorial sun. Afternoon game drives start around 3:30 or 4 pm and last until sunset at 6:30 pm. Dinner is usually served at 8 pm. Bring a hat for sun protection.

Our game-drivers are experienced friends who understand our preferences, expertly use lighting, and share valuable knowledge about Kenya and its wildlife. Each day, we visit different parts of the park to observe diverse animals. John and Dixie coordinate with driver-guides to maximize photo opportunities and rotate vehicles so everyone meets each guide; they also ride separately to share their expertise with all participants.

When you sign up, you'll receive an in-depth article by John and Dixie on photography during a Kenya safari. Their advice on managing camera equipment and setting up your camera can make quick, accurate photography much easier.

Cost and Payment

The price of this tour is based on thirteen participants. A small surcharge will be necessary if we are shy of thirteen. Note: we have **many non-photographers join our safari** with a serious spouse or photographer friend and they all have terrific trips. They take photos and videos with their cell phones.

\$15700 double sharing a room

\$17680 single (includes single room supplement) This option is available to only three participants. We are happy to connect interested singles who wish to have a roommate.

Deposit: \$3000 (per person) non-refundable deposit reserves your spot in this photo tour. Be sure to buy trip cancellation insurance.

\$3000 is also due on May 15, 2026.

Final Payment:

This is due August 1, 2026.

We accept two payment methods.

1. Save money by sending a check: Make your check **payable to Gerlach Nature Photography** and mail to:

John Gerlach
3750 S. Whitehorse Road
Nashville, IN 47448

2. Credit card: If you prefer, we accept major credit/debit cards. A 3.75% credit card processing fee applies. We do this because it is not fair to increase the price of the tour to cover credit card fees when most participants are happy to pay with a check to eliminate bank fees. Call Dixie at 812-350-0799 to use your card if you still want to do that.

How To Successfully Photograph Kenya's Wildlife

When you enroll, we will send you our detailed article about how to successfully photograph Kenya's wildlife. The info covered in this article is based on John's previous forty some Kenya photo safaris he has led. You will also get a trip confirmation letter with more info to help plan your trip.



Figure 3 Amboseli is known for lots of elephants including huge tuckers.

Testimonials

It has been almost a month since we returned from Africa, and I am overdo thanking you. Mary and I wanted you both to know we totally enjoyed the entire trip. You both were excellent leaders, full of suggestions, and helpful in many other ways. The group consisted of wonderful and helpful individuals whom we bonded with easily. The hotels were fantastic, each a little different than the others. All the

chefs outdid themselves in creating culinary delights. Wow! You stated that the trip would a trip of a lifetime and you were correct.

Thank you once again,

Andy & Mary

I cannot say enough positive things about a Kenyan safari with John and Dixie. Every effort is made to ensure it is the trip of a lifetime, from outstanding accommodations to superb guides and arrangements. The photography opportunities are everything you could ask for. Wildlife and landscapes galore. Sifting through 32,000 images and I am amazed at the number of keepers. Can't wait to return!

Mark

Thanks for a great photo experience in Kenya. It is always fun to travel with other avid photographers, and to be able to spend our days focusing on getting great shots!

Our guides were knowledgeable and personable, the flights between parks gave us additional time to experience the wildlife, and the lodging was also unique and helped give us full immersion in the safari experience.

I believe another member of our group said it best..... as we were preparing to head to the airport and return home, he said, "Usually by this time, I know the trip is over and I'm ready to be back home," but he added that he would easily have remained for another few days photographing the wildlife! I felt the same way, and I think that says it all.



Figure 4 What might be a good name for this mammal in the Masai Mara? How about the bat-eared fox!



Figure 5 Due to heavy rains in November, the normally dry Samburu was super lush with new green leaves when we arrived to photograph this group of reticulated giraffes.



Figure 6 Nothing like a thorough dust bath to start your morning!!!!



Figure 7 Every safari offers something new! In more than 40 safaris, this is the first time John has seen the aardwolf!



Figure 8 Sunrise with doum palms in Samburu.



Figure 9 The gorgeous rufous-crested roller.



Figure 10 Lions are plentiful in the Masai Mara. We find some to photograph most game drives.



Figure 11 Cheetahs are often photographed in the Mara too.



Figure 12 A baby common zebra scampers around the Mara grasslands.



Figure 13 Eland with calf. The short rains in Kenya occur in Nov. and Dec. By early January, things are drying out and most areas are quite green, and the wildlife often have youngsters with them.



Figure 14 Our group on the 2023-2024 Kenya safari. Note: Three land cruisers are not pictured. We only have three participants per vehicle. The more vehicles, the more you find as each vehicle has a radio to let the others know about a special photo opportunity such as finding a leopard, cheetah, or lions.