CLASSIC SAFARI: KENYA & TANZANIA
MARCH 2-18, 2016

"On safari"...it’s one of the most alluring phrases in all of travel. And Kenya and Tanzania count among the most alluring places to be “on safari.” As our small group travels from grasslands to highlands, to reserves and national parks, enjoy intimate game drives, see stupendous landscapes, stay in excellent accommodations, and meet gracious local people.

STUDY LEADER: To be announced

GROUP SIZE: 12 to 18 guests

PRICING: Per person double occupancy
- $8,796 Air Inclusive from Boston, JFK, DC ($8,095 air, land & safari inclusive plus $701 airline taxes and departure fees)
- $7,795 Land only rate
- $1,295 Single supplement

SCHEDULE BY DAY
B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2
DEPART U.S. FOR NAIROBI.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3
ARRIVE NAIROBI

Meet your Tour Director upon arrival in Nairobi, and transfer to your hotel.

Please note that arrival times may vary greatly (from mid-afternoon to early evening); no group activities or meals have been planned for this day.

You are free to explore or simply relax after overseas flights. Dinner tonight is on your own.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4
NAIROBI

This morning, gather for a briefing on the journey ahead before embarking on a sightseeing tour of Nairobi. You will see highlights of Kenya's cosmopolitan capital city today, including the Giraffe Centre, an educational site where you have the opportunity to come into close contact with the world's tallest species; and the house and museum of Danish writer Karen Blixen, who as Isak Dinesen wrote Out of Africa.

The afternoon is free for lunch on your own and to relax. This evening gather together for a welcome dinner at the hotel.
SATURDAY, MARCH 5
NAIROBI/ MASAI MARA

Early this morning, leave by mini-bus for the 5½ hour drive to Masai Mara, Kenya’s – and Africa’s – premier game reserve rich with animal life and traditional homeland of the native Maasai people, who now live and herd their cattle in villages outside the park. These semi-nomadic people have called the Mara home for millennia; their deep-rooted culture dictates they live in harmony with the wildlife surrounding them – hence they rarely hunt. The Maasai raise cattle, which along with lion and wildebeest play important roles in their cultural beliefs.

En route to Masai Mara stop at an overlook that offers superb panoramic views of the Great Rift Valley, which divides Kenya into two geological segments. Known especially for its annual wildebeest migration, the Mara comprises 200 square miles of vast plains, acacia forests, grass-covered hills, slow-flowing rivers – and of course, abundant game, large and small. You reach the luxury tented camp in the heart of the Mara in time for lunch then a late afternoon game drive.

Dinner tonight is at our camp, as are all meals throughout our stay.

Overnight: Sarova Mara Game Camp / (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 6
MASAI MARA

Spend today “on safari,” venturing out on early morning and late afternoon game drives during prime viewing hours to glimpse some of the lion, leopard, cheetah, zebra, giraffe, gazelle, wildebeest, elephant, buffalo, hippo, rhino, and other wildlife that call the Mara home. The abundance of wildlife here is truly remarkable: all told, zoologists have recorded 95 mammal, reptile, and amphibian species and over 450 bird species on the reserve. When not out in the bush, enjoy the activities and amenities of your luxury camp, including spa treatments and an outdoor pool, nature walks, and cultural and wildlife talks.

Overnight: Sarova Mara Game Camp / (B, L, D)

MONDAY, MARCH 7
MASAI MARA

Again today you’re “on safari” in this protected park that’s just slightly smaller than the state of Rhode Island, with time to relax between game drives.

Overnight: Sarova Mara Game Camp / (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 8
MASAI MARA, AMBOSELI NATIONAL RESERVE

Leave Masai Mara mid-morning on the hour-long flight to Nairobi, where you enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Please note that flights in Kenya (or out of the Mara) are often delayed. Your continued patience is appreciated as the tour director works to adhere to the original itinerary.

After lunch, set out on the approximately four-hour drive to Amboseli National Reserve in the shadow of snow-capped Mt. Kilimanjaro (though a universal symbol of Kenya’s natural world, free-standing Kilimanjaro actually sits in neighboring Tanzania). Please note that depending on road conditions, this drive may take longer than four hours.

The reserve comprises five main wildlife habitats: open plains, acacia woodland, rocky thorn bush country, swamps, and marshland. Known especially for its large elephant population (an estimated 650 elephants live here, more than in any other Kenyan preserve), Amboseli’s wide dry plains also boast herds of wildebeest, antelope, zebra, giraffe, gazelle, and buffalo among its 50 species of large animals; some 400 species of birds; hippos patrolling the swamps and springs; and several Maasai villages just outside the reserve. You will encounter some of this grandeur of nature during a game drive on the way to the classic safari lodge where you’ll be spending the next two nights.

After settling in at the lodge late this afternoon, enjoy dinner there tonight.

Overnight: Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge / (B, L, D)
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9**
**AMBOSELI NATIONAL RESERVE**

Your day begins with an early morning visit to a nearby Maasai village to meet the people before they leave to tend their cattle, and to see everyday life up close. Belonging to 26 related families, the men and women welcome you with traditional song and dance then introduce you to their way of life - including inviting you inside their dung-and-wood huts. Your group will also visit a local school where you have an opportunity to interact with the children and their teachers (and to leave them small gifts of school supplies, if you wish).

Then return to the lodge for a mid-morning game drive followed by lunch, then a late afternoon game drive. In between, you have time to relax at your comfortable lodge set beneath a copse of feathered acacia trees in the foothills of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain (and only free-standing one). And if you're lucky, its fabled "snows" will be visible - meaning, in Maasai belief, that the mountain "respects" us.

Overnight: Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge/ (B, L, D)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10**
**AMBOSELI / NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA, TANZANIA**

Leave Amboseli by mini-bus early this morning, cross the border into Tanzania at Namanga, and continue onward to Arusha, gateway to Ngorongoro and where you stop for lunch. Late this afternoon you reach spectacular Ngorongoro, a UNESCO Conservation Area, International Biosphere Reserve, and site of Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest intact volcanic caldera. On the crater's floor is Africa in microcosm: grassland, swamps, lakes, forests, mountains, and unparalleled wildlife, including the rare black rhino and black-maned male lion among its 25,000 creatures.

You will dine tonight at your lodge.

Overnight: Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge/ (B, L, D)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11**
**NGORONGORO CRATER**

Early this morning, set out for a tour of the 100-square-mile crater where you have a chance to see all of Africa's "Big Five" - elephant, buffalo, rhinoceros, lion, leopard - in one place, along with many other animal species (including Thomson's gazelle, wildebeest, and zebra) and diverse flora. Because Ngorongoro has abundant food and water year-round, the animals here do not migrate as they do between Masai Mara and the Serengeti. And because they live within the confines of the steep-walled caldera, Ngorongoro's animals are less shy and more approachable than those at other reserves. Throughout the explorations you also may see semi-nomadic Maasai tribesmen as they engage in their age-old practice of grazing their cattle alongside the wild animals.

This afternoon is at leisure to relax at your well-appointed lodge on the crater's rim.

Overnight: Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge/ (B, L, D)

**SATURDAY, MARCH 12**
**NGORONGORO / SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK**

Leaving Ngorongoro, you're bound today for the Serengeti, the Maasai's 5,700-square-mile "endless plain" considered Africa's finest park and one of the world's last great wildlife refuges. On the way, visit 31-mile Olduvai Gorge in the Great Rift Valley, where in 1959 anthropologist Mary Leakey discovered the 1.8 million-year-old skull of Australopithecus boisei - and revolutionized the study of human evolution. Known as the "cradle of mankind," Olduvai ranks as one of the world's most important prehistoric archaeological sites for its rich fossils, early hominid remains, and the ongoing discovery of one of the oldest stone tool technologies. The Leakey family continues to research early human development at Olduvai to this day. You continue on to the Serengeti (bringing a simple prepared lunch) and reach your lodge mid-afternoon.

After time to relax, embark on your first game drive here. Comprising two UNESCO World Heritage sites and two Biosphere Reserves, the
Serengeti has inspired such writers as Ernest Hemingway and Peter Mattheessen, as well as filmmakers, photographers, and scientists in an ecosystem that has changed little in the past million years. Following the game drive, you will dine at the lodge.

Overnight: Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge/ (B, L, D)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 13**
**SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK**

With the highest concentration of large animals on the planet, the Serengeti's vast treeless plains teem with animal life year-round (including 2,500 lion - the most anywhere), and this is the best locale in which to see lion, leopard, and cheetah up close. Twice each year (Dec–Mar and Jun–Oct), some 1.3 million wildebeest, 200,000 zebra, and 300,000 Thomson's gazelle migrate to new grazing lands between the Masai Mara and the Serengeti, sparking one of nature's most spectacular sights. With two game drives scheduled today, you're sure to see a variety of African wildlife.

Overnight: Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge/ (B, L, D)

**MONDAY, MARCH 14**
**SERENGETI / LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK**

With more than 13,000 square miles of protected national parkland, Tanzania boasts more preservation area than any other country. Drive this morning to peaceful Lake Manyara, one of Tanzania's smallest (125 square miles) and most diverse parks, where elephants graze beneath baobab trees, lions doze on the branches of umbrella trees, monkeys leap from treetop to treetop, hippos loll on the lakeshore, and flamingos paint the alkaline lake a colorful pink. Bordered by the dramatic Western Escarpment of the Great Rift Valley, Lake Manyara is especially notable for its abundant bird life (some 400 species), diverse vegetation, rare tree-climbing lions, and hippos. You reach your safari lodge in time for lunch then take an afternoon game drive.

Overnight: Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge/ (B, L, D)

**TUESDAY, MARCH 15**
**LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK**

On today's two game drives you're sure to see hippo, which you can get closer to here than anywhere else; as well as blue monkeys, lion, elephant, giraffe, impala, zebra, and such bird life as flamingo, saddle-bill stork, knob-billed duck, and Hottentot teal.

Dinner is at the lodge tonight.

Overnight: Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge/ (B, L, D)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16**
**LAKE MANYARA / NAIROBI, KENYA**

Early this morning, begin the drive back to Nairobi. Cross the Namanga border into Kenya and continue on to Nairobi, with a packed lunch to eat along the way. Late this afternoon you arrive in Nairobi.

Tonight, celebrate your safari with a farewell dinner at a lovely Nairobi restaurant.

Overnight: Fairmont The Norfolk / (B, L, D)

**THURSDAY, MARCH 17**
**NAIROBI / RETURN TO U.S.**

After a morning at leisure, we transfer to the Nairobi airport for our return flight to the U.S. (B)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18**
**ARRIVE IN U.S.**

Reach the U.S. this morning and connect with your flights home.