

“Join me in discovering one of the greatest places on earth.”

John S. Thiede

JST JOURNEYS - KENYA -2011

Nairobi, Amboseli National Park, Lake Nakuru National Park, Mt. Kenya National Park, Samburu National Reserve, Masai Mara Game Reserve, the Kenya Coast
\$4850/person - Limited to 18 Guests (Single Supplement = \$600)

Experience the vibrant city of Nairobi, the stunning views of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Amboseli National Park, the beautiful Rift Valley Lakes, the dense forests of Mt. Kenya, the unique wildlife in Samburu National Reserve, the scenic grassland savannah of the Masai Mara Game Reserve, and end your safari on the white sand beaches of the Kenya coast. This is the trip of a lifetime.

Safari Size: 3 vehicles Maximum per safari (18 Guests)

Safari Dates: Safari #1: January 16, 2011 to January 28, 2011
Safari #2: January 29, 2011 to February 9, 2011
Safari #3: February 10, 2011 to February 22, 2011
Safari #4: February 23, 2011 to March 7, 2011

*Other dates possible upon request - Minimum of 12 guests



The safari includes 12 nights at first class safari lodges and hotels, all meals, safari director throughout the safari, top safari driver/guides, bottled water on all game drives, transfers from and to Nairobi International Airport, plus 4 flights within Kenya. Not included is your flight to and from Kenya, alcohol or other drinks during meals, laundry service, and tips to driver/guides and your safari director.



Day 1: Nairobi, Kenya

Arrive Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and transfer to the Stanley Hotel, located in central Nairobi for check-in. The hotel has a nice casual restaurant and bar if you wish to grab a bite to eat. Any meals or drinks will be billed to your personal account. Overnight: Stanley Hotel

Day 2: Nairobi, Kenya

We will depart from the hotel lobby at 9:00 a.m. for a driving introduction of the Capitol City of Nairobi and then continue on to visit the giraffe ecological center. We will be able to observe several Rothschild giraffes and be introduced to the center with a short talk from the resident ranger on the life history of this amazing animal. From the giraffe center we'll continue on to the Karen Blixen Home and museum at the edge of the Ngong Hills. The house was made famous after the filming of "Out of Africa". It's a beautiful house and the gardens are lovely. We'll then have lunch at a local restaurant. Following lunch we will drive back into the city where you will have personal time to explore the city or relax by the pool at our hotel. Early evening we will have welcome drinks and dinner. Overnight: Stanley Hotel. Meals: BLD

Day 3: Amboseli National Park

Breakfast is served from 6:30 a.m. in the Thorn Tree Café in our hotel. At 7:30 a.m. we will depart Nairobi for our overland journey to Amboseli National Park, 137 miles from the city. Located at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak (19,340 ft), the mountain overshadows the arid savanna and fuels underground reservoirs that create swamps that support a rich diversity of wild animals and birdlife. The drive from Nairobi is very interesting and will be our first opportunity to see both the countryside of Kenya and the possibility of wildlife. Once we enter the park you will know why you came to Africa. The scenery is stunning and the wildlife is breathtaking. We hope to see quite a variety of bird and animal life prior to arriving at our lodge for check-in and lunch. There will be time to relax after lunch and then at 4:00 p.m. we will begin our first long game drive through the park looking for herds of elephants, Grant and Thomson's gazelle, birds and other wildlife that make Amboseli their home. If the weather cooperates we will get some great views of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Park regulations require all vehicles to be out of the park and back at the lodge by 6:30 p.m. Overnight: Amboseli Serena Lodge. Meals: BLD

Day 4: Amboseli National Park

Self-service coffee or tea will be available from 6:00 a.m. outside of the bar area of the lodge. Masai men will be there to keep white-faced vervet monkeys away from the cookies and sugar packs! We depart the lodge from the parking area for our morning game drive at 6:30 a.m. returning around 9:00 a.m. for breakfast. At 10:30 a.m. the lodge offers a guided nature walk. The cost is \$20/person. Our afternoon game drive will depart the lodge at 4:00 p.m. We will be on the lookout for elephants, lions, wildebeest, cheetah, leopard and gazelles in the drier areas away from the swamps. Along the swampland we'll watch for kingfishers, bee-eaters and raptors such as the African fish eagle. Overnight: Amboseli Serena Lodge. Meals: BLD. Optional nature walk - \$20/person.

Day 5: Amboseli, Nairobi, Lake Nakuru

We will start the day with an early breakfast before departing the lodge for the drive through the park and back to Nairobi. We'll stop in Nairobi for lunch before continuing on to Lake Nakuru National Park. Completely different from Amboseli in both scenery and wildlife, Lake Nakuru is one of the Rift Valley soda lakes. The lake's abundance of algae attracts flocks of flamingos which feed on the blue-green algae. The park also has both black and white rhinos giving us our best chance of seeing these amazing mammals. We'll have a late afternoon safari before checking into our lodge for the evening. Overnight: Sarova Lion Hill Lodge. Meals: BLD





Day 6: Lake Nakuru to Mt. Kenya National Park

We will check out of our rooms before having breakfast and then begin a morning game drive within the park before continuing to the shoulder of Mt. Kenya and our one-night stay at Mountain Lodge. Our tree-top accommodations are deep within the lush forests of Mt. Kenya National Park at an elevation of 7,000 ft. We will arrive in time for a lunch. Mountain Lodge is built around a floodlit waterhole which offers us an unforgettable all-night opportunity to view animals in their natural habitat. We should see giant forest hogs, Cape buffalo and genet cats. The lodge offers a ranger-lead nature walk in the late afternoon into the National Park. An armed guard accompanies each walk as there are no fences between walkers and wildlife. The cost is \$30/person Overnight: Serena Mountain Lodge. Meals: BLD. Optional Guided Nature Walk - \$30/person

Day 7: Mountain Lodge to Samburu National Reserve

We will have breakfast at the Lodge and then depart driving through the rich farmlands on the shoulders of Mt. Kenya reaching an elevation of 9,000 ft. We will make a stop at the equator to watch a demonstration on the Earth's coriolis affect and then proceed into the rugged semi-desert region of Samburu in the northern part of Kenya. We hope to arrive at the lodge in time for lunch. Before our afternoon game drive there will be a dance and cultural presentation by either the Samburu or Turkana people near the lodge. The cost is \$20. Later in the afternoon we will have a game drive. One of my favorite places on earth, Samburu is blessed with species rarely found elsewhere in Kenya including the liver-red reticulated giraffe, Grevy's zebra, Beisa oryx, gerenuk, Somali ostrich, vulturine guinea fowl and the tiny Dik Dik antelope. We may also see lions, cheetahs and leopards. The lodge is located on the banks of the Ewaso Ngiro River which has many large crocodiles. The lodge also has a lovely swimming pool for afternoon dips. Overnight: Samburu Serena Lodge. Meals: BLD

Day 8: Samburu National Reserve

We spend a second day to savor and explore the beauty and wildlife of Samburu with morning and afternoon game drives, a possible nature walk around the lodge grounds and/or a visit to a Turkana village. Turkana village visit is \$20/person. Overnight: Samburu Serena Lodge. Meals: BLD

Day 9: Samburu to the Masai Mara Game Reserve

After breakfast at the lodge we will do a short game drive en-route to a nearby airstrip for our flight to the Masai Mara

Game Reserve. The hour and a half flight is spectacular. We fly across Africa's famous rift valley. Upon arrival in the Mara we have a game drive before transferring to the Mara Serena Safari Lodge for a 2 night experience in one of Africa's most famous and beautiful game reserves. We have lunch at the lodge and then have time to relax at the pool or rest before our afternoon game drive. Along with a tremendous amount of wildlife and birdlife, the landscapes and skylines of the Mara are stunning. Overnight: Mara Serena Safari Lodge. Meals: BLD

Day 10: Masai Mara Game Reserve

Today we have morning and afternoon game drives with the opportunity to view the Mara River which provides a permanent water supply within the reserve. We should see lions, Cape buffalo, gazelles, topi, warthogs, cheetah, hyenas, hippos and Nile crocodiles along with many varieties of birds. Overnight: Mara Serena Safari Lodge. Meals: BLD

Day 11: Masai Mara/Nairobi/Malindi/Watamu

We begin our day with our final morning game drive in this amazing wildlife reserve. We'll return for a late breakfast and then time to relax and repack before our flight from the Mara back across the Great Rift Valley to Wilson Airport in Nairobi. From Wilson Airport we'll board a scheduled flight to the coastal town of Malindi. We then transfer to the small village of Watamu and the tropical retreat of Hemingway's Resort, located on one of Kenya's finest beaches. Overnight: Hemingway's Resort. Meals: BLD

Day 12: Hemingway's Resort

Hemingway's Resort has an atmosphere of relaxed sophistication. Today is yours to do as you wish. You can fish, swim, snorkel or scuba in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, walk into the village of Watamu, visit the fifteenth century Arab-African Gedi ruins, go birding at the near-by lagoon, or just kick back and enjoy the tropical sunshine on the beach or around the pool for our final day and evening in Africa. Overnight: Hemingway's Resort. There is a \$20 Park fee to snorkel. Meals: BLD

Day 13: Watamu/Malindi/Nairobi/Flights back to the U.S.

After a leisurely morning we transfer back to Malindi and board our flight back to Nairobi and transfer to the Stanley Hotel where we will have time to organize our luggage before the flight back to the states. Transfers to the international airport are included. Meals: Breakfast at Hemingway's. All other meals are on your own as some people will connect directly to flights onward in Nairobi.





John began traveling in his early 20's attending a semester abroad at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. That experience gave him the fever to travel on and discover more. He moved to Alaska in 1979 where he has worked for both Federal and State Parks as a Park Naturalist and as the manager for the State's Aquatic Farm program. In between State and Federal employment, John secured employment as a tour leader, leading folks around Alaska. Eventually he broke into the international travel business where he has worked for such prestigious companies as Abercrombie and Kent, TCS Expeditions and Starquest Expeditions. As an Expedition Leader he has led clients to Antarctica, the North Pole, South America, India, Russia, China, the South Pacific, the Middle East and Africa. The more he experienced the world the more he wanted to share his experiences with friends. In 2001 he organized and led his first private safari leading 18 friends around Kenya. It was such fun and so successful that he decided to do it again. In 2009 he formed JST JOURNEYS organizing and leading 5, 12-Day safaris, again to Kenya. He has organized four safaris around Kenya in 2011 and is currently firming up the itinerary for one or two private tours around India, taking in not only the cultural and architectural diversity of some of its cities including Delhi, Jodhpur and Agra but also visiting Keoladeo Ghana National Park listed as a World heritage bird sanctuary, Ranthambore Park, famous for its tigers, plus an overnight luxury camping experience in the Thar Desert. In the not too distant future John hopes to organize trips to South America to include Lima, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca and the Galapagos Islands and is looking into the possibility of a train journey across China and up into Tibet.



For more information, questions, inquiries or to book a safari, please write to: John S. Thiede
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