

# NORTHERN KENYA

*Remote & Wild*

Discover the hidden gems of Northern Kenya with our "Off the Beaten Track" experience. Venture beyond the well-trodden paths and immerse yourself in the authentic beauty and culture of this diverse country. From remote villages and untouched wilderness to lesser-known national parks and off-grid accommodations, this journey offers a unique perspective of Kenya that few travelers get to experience. Explore verdant mountains and remote deserts, encounter rare wildlife, and connect with local communities as you uncover the lesser-known treasures of this captivating destination. If you're seeking adventure, authenticity, and a deeper connection with Kenya, then this off-the-beaten-track experience is for you.

**23 Days**

**18 Feb - 13 Mar 2025**

**4x4 Expedition**



**Self Drive**  
**ADVENTURES**  
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[www.selfdriveadventures.com](http://www.selfdriveadventures.com)

# The Route

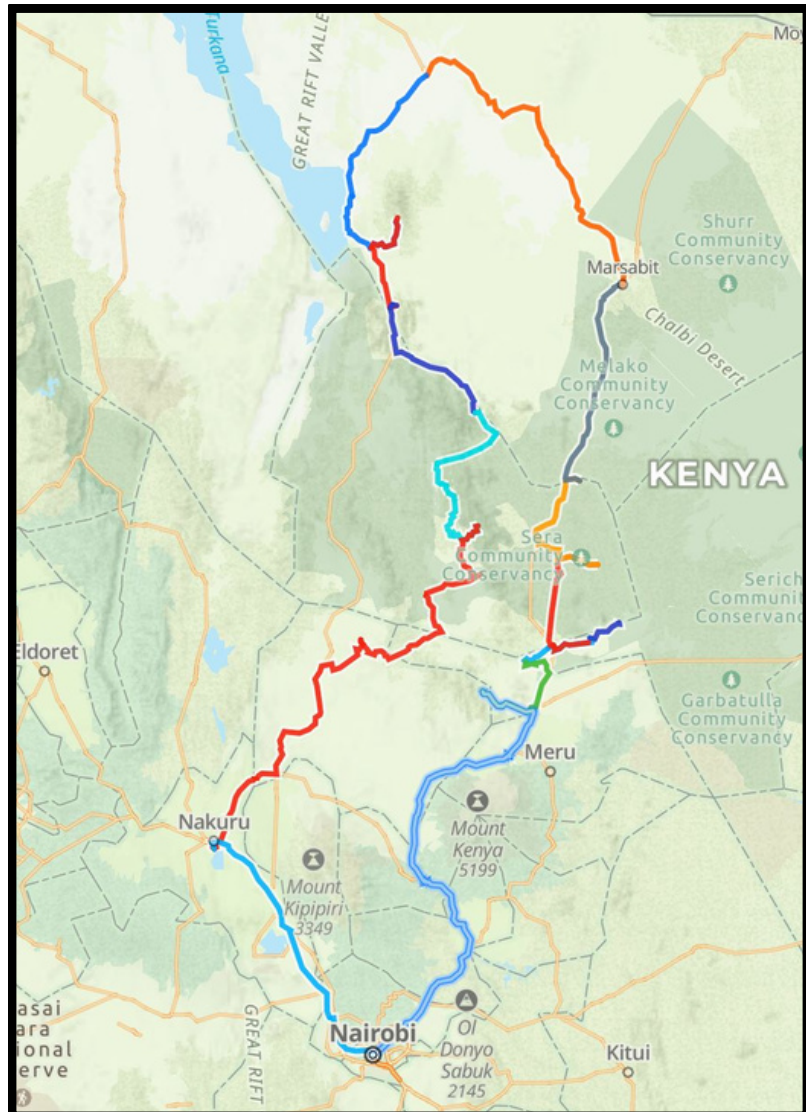


We travel anticlockwise through Northern Kenya. This is not your typical "Kenyan Safari". This is an expeditionary style adventure and the route is remote with tourists rare along many of the roads and tracks we explore.

**This is an exploratory adventure, so you must be prepared for the unexpected and be flexible as plans may not go to plan or may change due to current local or weather conditions.**

## Highlights include

- Extensive wildlife viewing experiences through Samburu, Shaba, Marsabit and Lake Nakuru National Parks/Reserves
- Lake Turkana, the Jade Sea, is one of the most remote and least visited regions in Kenya and the largest desert lake in the world
- The remote Mathews Range boasts stunning landscapes with rolling hills, lush forests, dramatic peaks and home to a diverse array of wildlife, including rare and endemic species
- South and North Horr, home to the Rendille people, a semi-nomadic ethnic group known for their rich cultural heritage
- Rift Valley is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, characterised by dramatic escarpments, volcanic peaks, and expansive plains
- Although mostly a camping based adventure, there are 8 nights of accommodation included along the route and we will be travelling in "camper-style" fully equipped 4x4s



**Please Note:** Itinerary subject to change dependent on availability and the support team decides on final route as per current conditions on day of travel.



# Support Team



## Your Host

You will be hosted by Gus Le Breton who is Kenyan born but currently living in Zimbabwe.

His deep knowledge of Kenya is shared with passion and enthusiasm. As you can see from his bio below, Gus is an expert in indigenous plants and their medicinal uses, but that doesn't mean you will be bombarded with botanical names of plants 24/7. Gus will share his full knowledge of Kenya with you with a balance of humour, history, culture, scenery as well as flora and fauna. Rest assured your evenings around the campfire will be entertaining!

Learn more about Gus Le Breton:  
<https://africanplanthunter.com/about-me/>



## Support Team

Mike Boyd & Linda Schlencker, the co-founders of Self Drive Adventures, will be supporting Gus and you on this exploratory adventure.

Mike and Linda have been leading tours in Africa since 2009 and are excited about their first real "adventure" in Kenya.



# Itinerary

## Day 1: Nairobi, Deluxe Safari Tent

Welcome to Nairobi, Kenya's vibrant capital city. Upon arrival at Nairobi Airport, you'll be greeted and transferred to your accommodation. Meet your tour host and support team as well as the other participants of the tour. Tour briefing followed by a welcome dinner. Wildebeest Eco Camp in the Deluxe Safari Tent category, breakfast, dinner

## Day 2: Nairobi, Deluxe Safari Tent

Our 4x4s will be delivered to our hotel. We'll stock up on provisions and pack our 4x4s. Wildebeest Eco Camp in the Deluxe Safari Tent category, breakfast

## Day 3: Lekurruki Conservancy, Tassia Lodge

You leave bustling Nairobi behind you and head north. Your destination is Tassia Lodge, where you will spend the next few days. It is committed to eco-standards and is run by the local Maasai community. The rooms are designed to be close to nature and the view of the vast plains will inspire you. Various activities are on offer, such as a visit to the Maasai, nature walks or game drives in the conservancy.

Tassia Lodge in the Standard category, full board

## Day 4: Lekurruki Conservancy, Tassia Lodge

Today you have the whole day to explore the Lekurruki Conservancy. Lekurruki is also surrounded by three other community conservancies Ol Donyiro, Leparua and Il Ngwesi making it an important wildlife corridor. Key wildlife species include elephants, giraffes, lions, Grevy's zebras, common zebras, elands, lesser and greater kudus, leopard, cheetah, wild dogs, buffaloes, warthogs among others, and a diversity of bird species.

Tassia Lodge in the Standard category, full board

## Day 5: Samburu National Reserve, Camping

You continue your journey in a northerly direction and reach Samburu National Park. You will probably notice that the landscape gradually becomes drier. In Samburu, you will mainly find open grasslands populated by oryx, giraffe, lions, zebras and other wild animals. However, it is particularly famous for the large herds of elephants and the Nile crocodiles that live on the banks of the Uaso Nyeru. It is named after the Samburu ethnic group, who live mainly north of the equator in Kenya.

Samburu National Reserve Campsite (camping)



**Day 6: Samburu National Reserve, Camping**

You have the whole day to go on a game drive in Samburu National Park or the neighbouring Buffalo Springs National Reserve.

Samburu National Reserve Campsite (camping)

**Day 7: Shaba National Reserve, Camping**

You leave the Samburu National Park and drive on to the Shaba National Reserve, which lies east of Archer's Post. It is the largest of the three protected areas at Ewaso Nyiro, but the animal density is somewhat lower. In return, it impresses with its breathtaking landscapes. Today you will spend the night at Rubin Hurt's Campsite in the park.

Rubin Hurt's Campsite (camping)

**Day 8: Sera Wildlife Conservancy, Camping**

Today's destination is the Sera Wildlife Conservancy. It was founded in 2001 by the local Samburu community in order to pacify three rival groups and guarantee nature conservation in this unique landscape. The conservancy is best known for the Rhino Sanctuary for the protection of Black Rhino. It is the first of its kind in East Africa. Kisima Hamsini Campsite (camping)

**Day 9: Melako Conservancy, Camping**

The Melako Conservancy, is a well-kept secret. The nearest major town is 45 minutes away, so the nature reserve promises peace and seclusion from the hustle and bustle of the world. The conservancy is characterised by large herds of elephants, giraffes, the rare Grevy's zebra and shady palm and acacia trees. Melako Campsite (camping)

**Day 10: Marsabit National Park, Camping**

Marsabit National Park lies far to the north of the Trans-East African Highway. The park is characterised by three crater lakes, which attract a large number of birds in particular. It is also one of the last retreats of the so-called Big Tusker elephants. The most famous of these was certainly Ahmed, who died at the age of 63 and whose replica can be marvelled at in the National Museum of Kenya in Nairobi.

Marsabit NP Special Campsite (camping)

**Day 11: North Horr, Camping**

Today's stage takes you to the northernmost point of your journey. North Horr is a small settlement in the middle of the desert-like landscape.

North Horr (camping)

**Day 12: Lake Turkana, Camping**

A real highlight awaits you today. You turn south again and head for Lake Turkana. An impressive place, with crater lakes in the actual lake, which few travellers get to see. You pitch your tents at the Palm Shade Campsite, which has a good infrastructure and where, as the name suggests, shady palm trees are throughout the camp. Palm Shade Resort and Camp (camping)

**Day 13: Lake Turkana, Camping**

Full day to explore Lake Turkana. Palm Shade Resort and Camp (camping)

**Day 14: Mt Kula, Wild Camping**

To the east of Lake Turkana lies Mt Kulal. It is of volcanic origin and, at over 2,000 metres, traps fog and rain on its mountain slopes. This makes it an important guarantor of life in the otherwise barren region. It is a UNESCO biosphere reserve for good reason. Until 1976, black Rhinos and Elephants also lived there, but unfortunately they have all fallen victim to poachers in the meantime. Wild camping (camping)

**Day 15: South Horr, Lodge Accommodation**

Just under 45 kilometres from Lake Turkana lies the South Horr Valley and Koros Camp. The lodge is built with natural materials and blends in wonderfully with the natural surroundings. The 6 cosy rooms are furnished in a modern style and promise a beautiful view of the immediate surroundings. Thanks to the special architecture, the rooms stay cool even on hot days. Activities on offer include cultural encounters with the Samburu and hikes and shorter walks to explore the breathtaking landscape.

Koros Camp in the Standard category, full board

**Day 16: Mt Poi, Camping**

You continue in a southerly direction to Lasamu Camp. The campsite is located on the slopes of the Ndoto Mountains on the Ngurunit River. Lasamu Camp (camping)

**Day 17: Mathews Mountains, Lodge Accommodation**

Your next destination is Kitich Camp in the middle of the Mathews Mountain Range. You will be amazed by the lush green forest, which is criss-crossed by a picturesque little river. From the conservancy you can reach the nearby protected areas of Buffalo Springs, Samburu and Shaba, or take part in one of the activities offered by the camp to explore the surrounding area.

Kitich Forest Camp in the standard category, full board



**Day 18: Mathews Mountains, Lodge Accommodation**

Free day to explore the Ngiliai Conservancy. The overnight price includes a number of activities that you can take part in.

Kitich Forest Camp in the standard category, full board

**Day 19: Loisaba Conservancy, Camping**

Today's stage takes you to the Loisaba Conservancy. The private nature reserve lies in an important wildlife corridor where elephants, buffalo and the rare Grevy's zebra regularly pass through. There are also several prides of lion, over 250 bird species and cheetahs, leopards and a few specimens of the rare wild dogs. In addition to game drives, you can also go horse riding, mountain biking and visit the local Samburu communities.

Acacia Campsite (camping)

**Day 20: Loisaba Conservancy, Camping**

Full day to explore the Loisaba Conservancy and its natural treasures.

Acacia Campsite (camping)

**Day 21: Lake Nakuru National Park, Camping**

Today you drive in a wide arc around the Aberdares to Lake Nakuru National Park. The national park is primarily known for the lake and the flamingos that can often be seen there, but also for the high density of rhinos. We spend the night at Makalia Falls Campsite, which has a simple infrastructure and is picturesquely situated by a waterfall, as the name suggests.

Makalia Falls Campsite (camping)

**Day 22: Nairobi, Deluxe Safari Tent**

Today you drive past more lakes of the East African Rift Valley and leave the lowlands. Before you reach Nairobi, you have a magnificent view of the Rift Valley and the surrounding volcanoes. The 4x4s will be collected from the hotel.

Wildebeest Eco Camp in the Deluxe Safari Tent category, breakfast

**Day 23: Depart**

Transfers to the airport.





## Prices, Dates...

### Dates...

23 Days

18 Feb - 13 Mar 2025

4x4 Expedition

### Prices...

Below is a schedule of prices based on vehicle number and group size. Upon booking we will ask you to let us know at which level you are willing to join the group. e.g. If there are 2 cars booked, and when you book you are the third car, you may select that you are only prepared to join the group when there is at least 4 cars. As soon as we reach the minimum number of cars based on this selection from everyone who has booked, we will advise you that the trip is confirmed, and you can start booking flights and making other arrangements.

5 cars / 10 people minimum (prices per person, twin/double): **USD11,990\***

4 cars / 8 people minimum (prices per person, twin/double): **USD12,990\***

3 cars / 6 people minimum (prices per person, twin/double): **USD13,990\***

\*The prices above are based on the 2025 tour dates and are based on 2 people per 4x4 on a double/twin share basis. There will be a maximum of 5 vehicles (plus support vehicle). Prices are subject to exchange rate fluctuations – please see booking form for all terms and conditions.

**Please do not book flights nor pay for travel insurance until you have been advised that we have received deposits from the minimum number of participants for this adventure.**

### Inclusions...

Arrival and departure transfers, vehicle hire (Toyota Hilux 2.4 or Isuzu D-Max D Double Cab 4x4 with Canopy Camper by Alu-Cab), silver vehicle insurance (silver insurance does not cover: tyres, towing, transport to the next destination in case of breakdown), two-way radio in vehicle, all campsites and accommodation as per itinerary (14 nights camping including 1 wild camp, 8 nights accommodation), park entry fees, meals as per the itinerary (8 breakfasts, 5 nights on a full board basis, welcome and farewell dinners), local host and support team in a support vehicle, activities as listed in itinerary, entry fees as per itinerary. First aid kit is in the support car, as is all recovery equipment.

### Exclusions...

Airfares return to Nairobi, alcoholic drinks, meals other than stated in the itinerary (approx. USD800 per person for camp groceries and extra meals), local tips, travel insurance, fuel (approx. USD2,000 per vehicle), vehicle excess/deposit USD2,000 and insurance does not cover tyres, towing, transport to the next destination in case of breakdown, activities over and above those detailed in the itinerary, visas (if required), immunisations (if required) and any personal expenses. Car excess and car rental terms and conditions will be supplied separately.

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# Other Information

## Exploratory...

This is an exploratory adventure. Although we have researched this itinerary, this will be the first time we have completed it. Please expect that there may be changes and perhaps unexpected issues that arise. All participants need to be flexible on a day to day basis.

## Accommodation...

This is not a 5-star holiday. It is an adventure. We will be staying in campsites that will usually have basic bathroom amenities like shared showers and toilets. There is one night of wild camping with no amenities. We have 5 nights on a fully inclusive basis in comfortable lodges and camps and 3 nights in tented accommodation in Nairobi.

## Driving Ability & Conditions...

The skills required are a driver's licence (your home country and international licence) and 4x4 experience is essential. Experience of sand driving especially valuable. 4x4 training with a club or recognised training organisation is highly recommended. Please discuss your level of 4x4 experience with us prior to booking. The conditions will include, good tar, terrible tar, remote dirt/rocky trails, sand and some gravel roads or varying quality. Some moderate technical 4x4 sections.

## Vehicles...

The vehicle will be a 4x4 – Toyota Hilux 2.4 or Isuzu D-Max D or similar Double Cab 4x4 with Canopy Camper by Alu-Cab.

## Support Team...

On this adventure you will be supported by your local host Gus Le Breton and a Self Drive Adventures support team. The decision of the host and support team is final on all matters likely to affect the safety or well-being of any person participating in the trip.



## Activity Level...

We do recommend a reasonable level of fitness and mobility to endure some of the rough tracks and long days of driving. This trip is not otherwise physically demanding as any walking required is usually a short distance and there are longer distances optional for fitter participants. Trekking poles are useful as there can be uneven terrain and stairs. There are many days where we do activities outside of the 4x4s.

## Convoy Size...

The minimum number of 4x4s in our convoy is 3 and the maximum is 5. This excludes the support vehicles. The convoy does travel together for most of the journey, so you need to be willing to be flexible to fit in with the determined start time each day, stops for breaks etc. We try to allow breaks for photos, toilet stops, sightseeing, activities, wildlife viewing, lunch, morning and afternoon tea.

## Food & Drinks...

This is mainly a self catering adventure. We will have shopping opportunities to top up provisions. If you do have any special dietary requirements you may need to bring some additional items with you from home. There are 8 breakfasts included as well as 5 nights on a full board basis and welcome and farewell dinners are also included.

## Weather...

Kenya's temperatures are very high all year round due to its location close to the equator. In late February and into early March we can expect the highest temperatures to be in the mid 35° C range during the day, and 25°C to 30°C at night. It will be cooler at the higher altitudes of Nairobi and we may experience occasional cooler weather, down to 10-12°C at night. Although it is traditionally considered to be a dry season, changing climatic conditions have made the weather around the world and in this area very unpredictable. We should therefore be prepared that unseasonal thunderstorms and rain could occur.

## Flights...

Before booking flights and other arrangements it is your responsibility to confirm with us that we have the minimum number of cars required for this adventure to depart.

## Risks & Health...

By participating you acknowledge that the nature of the trip is adventurous, and participation involves a degree of personal risk. You should discuss the risks with your doctor before agreeing to join this trip.

