

*Land of  
the Maasai*



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[www.larktours.com](http://www.larktours.com)

# The Lark Tours Difference

As you have probably already discovered, today's travel industry offers an overwhelming number of options. With so many to pick from, we know just how difficult it can be to select the right travel company. Here are some reasons why we think you should choose Lark Tours:

**We are Unique.** At Lark Tours we focus solely on offering private luxury vacations and safaris in Africa. Our concept is simple: your vacation in Africa should be just that - it should be **your** vacation.

**Personalized & Tailor-Made Itineraries.** While most companies present a number of set itineraries with scheduled departure dates, thus forcing you to fit within their framework, we take a very different approach. We offer private vacation itineraries that are personalized and tailor-made to perfectly fit your interests, preferences, and schedule. Whether you are traveling as a couple, a family, a group of friends, an organization, or some combination thereof, we will put together a trip that fits everybody's desires and departs when you want!

**Private Groups.** There is no denying that Africa is simply spectacular. To truly experience this enchanting continent on an intimate level, in a way that is sure to impact some part of your being, we firmly believe that private journeys are an absolute must. By delving into Africa in a manner that only private travel makes possible, you are able to interact with locals, learn about each region's history and culture at your own pace, and fully delight in all the beauty and wildlife that Africa has to offer. This ensures that you have an authentic experience in Africa and return home feeling enlightened, inspired, and above all else, satisfied.

**Flexibility.** The real beauty of private travel is having flexibility during your vacation. Because you have your own expert guides with private vehicles, you are free to make changes on a whim. When there are moments so captivating that you simply want to linger and soak in the experience, then you have the freedom to do so. There is no bus to catch, no rigid schedule to follow, and no large group with competing demands. This is your vacation with your own private guides who are there each step of the way to ensure you have the perfect experience.

**Service is King.** Private luxury travel is about receiving the best service available, which includes incredible attention to detail and help with every facet of your vacation. We deliver all this and more. Our staff and guides are some of the best in the industry and we all follow one simple rule: you are the most important priority. We will do absolutely whatever it takes to ensure you have the easiest, most satisfying vacation experience to date.

**Expertise:** We have delved deep into Africa and emerged with the extensive first-hand knowledge necessary to make sure your vacation is unforgettable. In addition to substantial training and ongoing education, everybody who works for us has extensive personal expertise from having lived and traveled in Africa. By targeting our focus exclusively on Africa, we are able to continually deepen our knowledge of this region and provide you with a plethora of magnificent experiences.

**One Call Convenience.** It seems like everything these days is becoming more and more convenient. Why should travel be any different? With one phone call we can take care of all your travel arrangements, including complimentary flight bookings, travel insurance, and much more.

**We Like to Have Fun!** Let's face it – much of the travel industry is far too serious. This is your vacation! This is your time off, your chance to explore a new region of the world and recharge your batteries. So what are you waiting for? Africa beckons!

# Land of the Maasai Itinerary

*Embark on a 13-day luxurious adventure departing from Nairobi, Kenya. First we set out on safaris in Amboseli National Park, located below the Slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, before flying to the famed Masai Mara*

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## **Day 1 - Depart from USA for Nairobi, Kenya**

Today we depart for Nairobi, Kenya, en route to the Masai Mara.



## **Day 2 - Arrive in Nairobi**

Once we arrive in Nairobi we are escorted to the extravagant Fairmont Norfolk Hotel, Nairobi's finest and best-known accommodation and a traditional starting point for luxury safaris in East Africa. Founded in 1904, The Norfolk is steeped in a

rich history and has been an integral part of Nairobi and Kenya due to the flow of influential and powerful clientele that the hotel has attracted over the last century. Now managed by Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, The Norfolk continues to offer all its guests a high degree of service and luxury, with rooms that are richly furnished with plush carpeting, deep velour soft furnishings, and all the modern amenities that the discerning traveler would expect, including satellite television.

Upon arrival, we check into our Junior Suites. We then enjoy the evening relaxing in the hotel's tropical gardens or unwinding at the popular Lord Delamere Terrace, one of Nairobi's most popular places to meet for drinks.

*The Fairmont Norfolk Hotel (dinner included)*

## **Day 3 - Transfer to Tortilis Camp in Amboseli National Park**

We wake up and enjoy a leisurely breakfast, soaking in the radiant morning sun. We then transfer to Wilson Airport and board our light air flight (also known as a "bush airplane") to Tortilis Camp, situated on its own 30,000 acre private game reserve adjacent to Amboseli National Park. The short flight provides us with a unique opportunity to experience a "wing safari," where we are able to view herds of wildlife, flocks of birds, and Kenya's unique geography from the sky.

When early European explorers returned home from having discovered this region, describing majestic scenes of a snow capped mountain overlooking the African plains near the equator, they were met with ridicule and disbelief. Nobody could believe that a mountain as grand as Mount Kilimanjaro was present in the African plains, next to what is now Amboseli National Park.



Similarly, when we arrive at Tortilis for the first time, where views of the dazzling white snowcap atop Mt. Kilimanjaro are prominent high above the seemingly endless plains, feelings of awe are impossible to avoid.

Tortilis Camp is a charming, rustic tented camp, shaded by a natural forest of Acacia Tortilis Thorn

Trees, which is where this camp gets its name. Tortilis is a first-class camp and was rated as one of *Travel & Leisure's* "Top 50 Best Hotels in the World" for 2009. It also won the British Airways regional award for ecotourism and has earned an international reputation for its commitment to the environment with its simplicity, unobtrusive design, and attention to comfort without compromising the integrity of the environment. The guest tents are spacious and luxurious and each tent leads from a bedroom with an expansive king-size or generous twin beds, through a dressing area into modern bathrooms complete with pressurized hot showers and flush toilets. The tents are all raised up on a wooden deck and sheltered by a makuti (thatched) roof overhanging a large veranda, the perfect place for enjoying an afternoon siesta. Tortilis Camp, where the emphasis is always on service and comfort, provides us with the opportunity to experience the splendor of Amboseli.

*Tortilis Camp (all meals, house beverages (a selection of beer, wine, spirits, soda, etc), laundry, guided walks included)*



#### **Day 4 & 5 - Safaris in Amboseli National Park**

Located in southeast Kenya just north of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Amboseli National Park is the setting for the quintessential African landscape, the one that often comes to many people's mind when thinking of a safari in Africa. Amboseli is where the snow-capped Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain, provides a majestic backdrop to vast, open plains dotted by flat-topped acacia trees. The allure of this awesome setting, as well as the plentiful game and large herds of wildlife, attract visitors from all over the world and makes this park one of Kenya's top highlights.

We explore this region, enjoying varied game drives in Amboseli and the adjoining reserve. When we are not pursuing large matriarchal herds of elephants, for which this region is famous, or any of the other prevalent wildlife, we enjoy the company of the local Maasai guides, exploring our surroundings on foot, or simply relax at camp, enjoying the views of Mt. Kilimanjaro. During the evenings we have the option of traveling to the top of Kitirua Hill with our guides to watch as the sun sinks below the horizon, coloring the snows of Mt. Kilimanjaro a deep blush. In addition, we have the option of enjoying a bush breakfast in the plains, where we directly interact with nature.

*Tortilis Camp (all meals, house beverages (a selection of beer, wine, spirits, soda, etc), laundry, guided walks included)*



### **Day 6 - Transfer to Serian Camp in The Masai Mara**

This morning we board our light air flight to Serian Camp, located in the famed Masai Mara. Upon arrival our guides meet us and transfer us to the camp. Serian, meaning “peaceful, calm or serene” in the Maa language of the Maasai people, is an exclusive bush camp that flanks a secluded valley located alongside the Mara River. It is also the charismatic bush home of Alex Walker, reknowned filmmaker and guide extraordinaire in the Masai Mara. This luxurious camp consists of eight private marquee tents, set in the shade of large Warburgia Trees, all overlooking the river. Each of the eight ensuite tents is furnished in rich, warm textures mixed with natural hard woods, comfortable colonial style furnishing, and a flair of eastern “spice.” The tents are set on hardwood decks, supported by hardwood poles, and constructed of Kenyan canvas. The bedroom area in each tent is fitted with large double beds flanked by twin bedside tables and a writing desk. The bathroom area includes a shower, twin sinks, a large bush bathtub, and a flush toilet. Furniture is minimal and unobtrusive, mimicking the traditional safari camps of an earlier age.



Once we have settled in, we embark on our first thrilling safari in the Masai Mara.

*Serian Camp (includes breakfast, lunch, dinner; house beverages (a selection of beer, wine, spirits, soda, etc), laundry, guided walks, picnic lunches, bush dinners, river fishing included)*

### **Day 7 & 8 - On Safari in the Glorious Masai Mara**

Today we embark on safaris in the Masai Mara, one Africa’s most popular safari destinations. Located in southwest Kenya, this is the northernmost extension of the Mara-Serengeti Ecosystem and consists of both the Masai Mara National Reserve as well as the many adjacent conservation areas

managed by local Maasai communities. While the game viewing is always particularly good in this region and

worthy of a visit in its own right, what makes the Masai Mara one of Africa's jewels is the annual Great Migration. Here this usually occurs from July to November and consists of millions of Wildebeest, Zebra, Topi, and other plains game pouring over the border from the Serengeti in search of fresh water and new grazing territory. This is the largest mammalian migration on earth where lions, cheetah, leopards, wild dogs, hyenas, and other predators are never far behind the plains game, ever vigilant in their search for a new meal. Of particular excitement are the Great Migration crossings at the Mala and Talek Rivers where enormous crocodiles pick off whatever weak, injured, or careless bodies they can get their jaws on.



Serian operates all its safaris in four-wheel drive, open-top vehicles that are customized for game viewing. With excellent all around visibility, and the power to navigate through most any terrain, these vehicles allow for amazing safaris. The best thing about safaris at Serian, though, is that there is no routine or schedule. Because this camp is so intimate and personal, we can customize our safari experience. Safaris usually last around three and a half hours, though our knowledgeable guides and drivers are completely flexible and are always willing to stay out longer. For example, we can go out on an entire day of safaris, stopping out in the bush to enjoy a delicious picnic lunch at noon. We can also opt for a classic evening sun-downer, where we sip on cool drinks while marveling at the incredible beauty of this region. Another optional activity at Serian is a walking safari through the bush led by a knowledgeable, armed guide. There



other optional activity at Serian is a walking safari through the bush led by a knowledgeable, armed guide. There

is nothing quite as exhilarating as exploring the African wild on foot! In short, Serian revolves around our desires, offering unparalleled service and outstanding safari experiences.



*Serian Camp (includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, house beverages (a selection of beer, wine, spirits, soda, etc), laundry, guided walks, picnic lunches, bush dinners, river fishing included)*

### **Day 9 - Transfer to Kichwa Tembo**

Today we transfer to Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp, another outstanding camp located within the Masai Mara below the Oloo-lolo Escarpment of the Great Rift Valley. Kichwa Tembo's spacious canvas safari tents offer magical views over the Masai Mara and the Sabaringo River. The main thatched guest areas include a welcoming bar/

sitting area, indoor and outdoor dining areas and a swimming pool, which is perfect for hot, lazy afternoons

Upon arrival we make ourselves comfortable in our Luxury Tents and spend the next two days on exciting safaris! When we're not on safari, enjoy time relaxing by the pool.

*Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp (includes breakfast, lunch, dinner)*

### **Day 10 - Visit a Maasai Village**

Many of the Maasai people still live a traditional lifestyle, usually centered around cattle, and no visit to Kenya is complete without meeting one of the tribes who help make up this incredible country. If we are lucky, the villagers may treat us to a traditional Maasai warrior dance, consisting of singing and energetic jumping. An opportunity to visit the Maasai is truly a privilege!



That afternoon, enjoy another excellent safari in the amazing Masai Mara, complete with another sundowner where we can reflect on our previous days in the African wilderness and enjoy the surrounding splendor.  
*Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp (includes breakfast, lunch, dinner)*



### **Day 11 - Floating Gently Over the Masai Mara**

Today we wake up early for a truly memorable activity - ballooning over the Masai Mara! We board our hot air balloons before dawn and float lazily over the African wilderness, watching as the sun rises over the horizon and the day begins to come to life. In a word, spectacular! After landing, we enjoy a special breakfast in the bush before proceeding back to camp.

That afternoon, spend time on safari or relax in camp.

During dinner that evening, while seated around the blazing log fire under the starry African sky, enjoying the superb food and excellent wines, we are sure to feel Africa tugging at our hearts. This is yet another of East Africa's many highlights.

*Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp (includes breakfast, lunch, dinner)*

### **Day 12 - Transfer to Nairobi**

Sadly, today marks the end of our unforgettable vacation in East Africa. After one final safari and our last breakfast on safari, we transfer to the airstrip and catch our flight to Nairobi. Once at Nairobi, we transfer from Wilson Airport to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport where we board our international flight home.

### **Day 13 - Arrive Home**

En route to home. As we fly back home, we relish in our new memories and look forward to telling friends and family about our splendid travels in Africa.

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## Trip Details

### **2010 Departure Dates and Pricing**

• *Land of the Maasai* departs daily

• **Shoulder Season** (January 1 - March 31; October 1 - October 31):  
From \$7,795 per person sharing; \$1,150 single supplement

• **High Season** (July 1 - September 30):  
From \$7,995 per person sharing; \$1,150 single supplement

• **Low Season** (rest of year):  
From \$7,550 per person sharing; \$1,150 single supplement

• **Peak Season** (December 15 - January 1):  
Please contact us for pricing and availability

NOTE: Necessary flights to/from and within Africa (Nairobi to Amboseli to Masai Mara to Nairobi) are an additional fee and are not included in the above rates.

\*\*\* The single supplement is an additional charge added to the trip price for travelers requesting single occupancy accommodations.

### **What's Included With the Cost?**

- A Lark Tours welcome packet containing all necessary pre- and post-departure trip planning information
- Full pre-and post-vacation Lark Tours customer support, available to answer all your questions during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST) and available to answer emergency calls from trip participants and/or from family/friends of trip participants at any hour during your vacation
- Guides for all activities, sightseeing, etc as outlined in the itinerary
- All meals
- All lodgings and accommodations
- All entry and participation costs for all activities, sightseeing, etc. as outlined in the itinerary
- All ground transportation
- Fully comprehensive travel insurance
- All game drives in off-road vehicles
- All conservation and park fees
- Upon request, complimentary international flight arrangements

### **What's NOT Included?**

- International flight to/from Nairobi
- Alcohol, except where specified in the itinerary
- Personal purchases
- Gratuities
- Passport/visa fees
- Required and/or recommended immunizations
- Any other items of a personal nature

There are absolutely no hidden costs, fees, or extra expenses.

### **Trip Reservations**

All bookings and activities are subject to change and availability.

### **Complimentary Flight Arrangements**

Lark Tours is pleased to offer you our complimentary flight arrangement services, at no additional charge, when you book one of our vacations. With the help of our flight specialists, we are able to find the flights you need, usually for less than you can find as an individual. Also, when we book your flights we can schedule all your arrival and departure times to fit perfectly with your vacation itinerary. But best of all, taking advantage of our com-

plementary flight arrangements is convenient and means you can make all your vacation plans with a single phone call.

If you decide to handle flight arrangements on your own then we ask that you check with us to coordinate all flights. This is very important since there are flights where arrival and departure times must be coordinated properly to ensure that your trip flows smoothly. Once your flight is booked, please send us a copy of your ticket so we have a copy on file.

### **Welcome Packet**

Once you book a vacation with us, we will send you a detailed packet of information on how to prepare for your upcoming trip, which includes topics such as necessary visas, important vaccinations, safety tips, clothing suggestions, recommended reading, and more.

### **Payment Schedule**

At the time of reservation: 50% of trip cost due  
90 days prior to trip departure: Full balance due

### **Cancellation & Refund Policy**

All cancellations are to be made by speaking with a Lark Tours representative followed by a written notification mailed to our office. At the time of cancellation, the following fees will apply:

91 days or more prior to departure we charge: 25% of total trip price  
46 to 90 prior days to departure we retain: 50% of total trip price  
45 days or less prior to departure we retain: 100% of total trip price

# About Lark Tours

Based in Raleigh, North Carolina, U.S.A., Lark Tours is a full-service tour operator that focuses exclusively on offering private luxury vacations and safaris in Africa. Founded in 2005, Lark Tours was developed based on the knowledge that in order to truly experience Africa on an intimate level, private journeys are an absolute must. Since then, Lark Tours has been bringing fresh energy to the world of travel with its innovative approach, and in the process, it has redefined what it means to have an unforgettable vacation experience in Africa.

At Lark Tours, our hope is that you will consider sharing this journey with us, and in the process, grow to love this enchanting continent as much as we do.

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Questions? Comments? To speak with a Lark Tours representative call us toll-free at 1-877-LarkTours (527-5868)

If you prefer, email any of you questions or comments to [info@larktours.com](mailto:info@larktours.com)



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