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Kenya with Kids Day by Day Itinerary Family Safari

DATE	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Travel Day	International Travel.
Day 2	Fairview Hotel Nairobi	Pickup at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by your Deeper Africa guide after clearing customs. Your guide is a Kenyan parent and has lots of experience with families on safari. He will have a sign with your name on it. After making sure that all of your luggage is collected, he'll transport you to Fairview Hotel where everyone can get a good night's sleep. Dinner and overnight at the Fairview Hotel. Swimming pool available
Day 3	Samburu Intrepids Camp Samburu, Shaba, and Buffalo Springs Reserve	Breakfast at Fairview Hotel. Your guide will help you understand the rhythm of life on safari - where you arise with the birds, or whenever you choose. Start out after breakfast for safari country. Your journey northward to Samburu, Shaba, and Buffalo Springs Reserve will take you through traditional Kenyan farm lands and villages. Make sure you stop at the equator while you travel north through Nanyuki and have your photos taken at the equator sign. ("This sign is on the Equator.") There is an entrepreneurial Kenyan at the equator sign who demonstrates the Coriolis effect of the earth's rotation near the sign. In the northern hemisphere water gurgles through a plug hole in an anticlockwise direction, whereas in the southern hemisphere it flows clockwise. The demonstration is free, but a "certificate" comes for a fee. Lunch is at Timau River Lodge at the base of Mount Kenya with views of its twin peaks, Nelion and Batian. Your trout is caught fresh from the Timau River which flows right past the lodge. After your drive from Nairobi, the clear mountain air and the nearby waterfall feel refreshing. You are headed toward a huge expanse of park land in north central Kenya which includes the wilderness land of Shaba National Reserve, Samburu National Reserve, and Buffalo Springs Reserve. Established just over 20 years ago in the arid lowlands to the north of Mount Kenya, these three reserves stretch along the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River. The river attracts plentiful wildlife due to its permanent water supply and forest shade. Of particular interest, besides the opportunities to see leopard, are certain rare species well adapted to the drier climate in this part of Kenya. They include: reticulated giraffe, beisa oryx, Grevy's Zebra, gerenuk, and Somali Ostrich. Predators include most members of the cat family, and there is a healthy elephant population which ranges throughout all of these reserves.
Day 4	Samburu Intrepids Samburu, Shaba, and Buffalo Springs Reserve	Dinner and overnight at Samburu Intrepids Camp. Breakfast at Samburu Intrepids. Your next nine days will provide your family with in-depth opportunities to learn animal identification, wildlife tracking, and wildlife spotting in the East African landscape in the company

of your Deeper Africa guide. Your guide is your family safari advisor. He will act as your teacher, keeping you safe and comfortable throughout your safari. While wildlife viewing, you'll have a cool box in your Land Cruiser stocked with water and your favorite sodas.

Your family's Natural Learning program unfolds at the pace the family chooses with opportunities to learn animal identification, to distinguish herd species, and to learn to spot and track wildlife. Your guide will be particularly pleased to watch each member of your family develop an eye for spotting wildlife in the distance and tracks on the ground.

Your wildlife viewing for today will be in Samburu National Park. You have the flexibility to set your wildlife viewing schedule with your guide. Park permits allow you wildlife viewing from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm. Consider which of the following schedules best suits your family:

Morning and afternoon wildlife viewing with lunch at Intrepids Camp;
All day wildlife viewing with picnic lunch; or
Wildlife viewing out before sunrise with return for brunch and afternoon wildlife viewing.

Samburu National Reserve offers shelter to 66 known elephant family matriarchal groups and approximately 100 bulls, numbering 750 elephants in total. Two thousand elephants undertake a seasonal migration from the Laikipia plains northward into the rangelands of Samburu, Buffalo Springs, and Shaba. Seven hundred and fifty of those elephants consider Samburu their home range, with the remainder of the elephants spread out over the other park lands. There are predator territories in Samburu so there are ample opportunities to view lions and leopards.

Dinner and overnight at Samburu Intrepids.

Day 5 Lewa Downs Safari Camp
 Lewa Downs Conservancy

Breakfast at Samburu Intrepids. Drive south to Lewa Safari Camp, have your lunch, and get prepared for some of the best wildlife viewing in Africa. Take a game drive for the afternoon and get acquainted with the Conservancy Area. This afternoon your Deeper Africa guide will be ready to continue your learning program and take you to a new level as you observe and appreciate the more subtle scenes in the bush.

Lewa Downs has some unique species available for observation:

Grevy's Zebra
Rare Sitatunga Antelope
Rothschild's Giraffe
Black and White Rhino

The Conservancy area includes 62,000 acres. It supports over 20% of the world's remaining Grevy's Zebra population and 10% of Kenya's black rhino population. There are five extremely diverse ecosystems within the Conservancy District including one of the three remaining habitats for sitatunga antelope and ecosystems that support predator populations of lion, leopard, hyena, and wild dogs. There are 70 mammal species residing in Lewa Downs, with over 350 species of birds.

Enjoy sundowners ("drinks at sundown"), dinner and overnight at Lewa Downs Safari Camp. Swimming pool available.

Day 6 Lewa Downs Safari Camp
 Lewa Downs Conservancy

Breakfast at Lewa Downs Safari Camp. Lewa Downs Conservancy is not a National Park, and land use of the Conservancy Trust allows you to have

some unique experiences not available in other places in East Africa. You can participate in the following activities:

Safari game drives whenever you choose,
Night game drive,
Horseback ride, and
Walking safaris.

You set your personal safari schedule with your guide. Picnic lunches available, as you choose.

Game is plentiful in the Lewa Downs Conservation Area and there is potential to see elephants, giraffes, lions, lots of herd animals, and rhino. The Craigs, an old British-Kenyan family, manage the Lewa Downs Conservancy Area under a Trust with the Kenyan government: the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Lewa Downs contains the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary. It holds the largest breeding rhino population on the African continent. The rhino sanctuary was originally stocked with animals from other reserves and with isolated rhinos from northern Kenya. The breeding program has been one of the most successful programs in all of Africa and rhino from Lewa Downs are beginning to be relocated into other Kenyan reserves and parks. We'll make arrangements for you to visit the rhino nursery to see any new calves.

Lewa employs 330 full time Kenyan employees, many from the local tribal areas bordering the Conservancy District. The Conservancy operates a health facility and mobile clinic that are open to local communities. It manages a micro-enterprise lending program for local women. Likewise, it supports eight local primary schools with infrastructure support, educational materials, lunch programs, and scholarships. All profits generated by your visit to Lewa are reinvested in the Conservancy's environmental, social, educational, or health programs.

Sundowners, dinner, and overnight at Lewa Downs Safari Camp.

Day 7 Lion Hill Lodge
 Nakuru National Park

Breakfast at Lewa Downs Safari Camp. Continue driving south toward Lake Nakuru National Park. Nakuru is a small, beautiful park with ecosystems that include an acacia forest, woodlands, and a famous soda lake that draws flocks of greater and lesser flamingos and over 400 species of birds, including many white pelicans. Up to four million flamingoes roam the Rift Valley lakes in great flocks throughout the year, searching for the best feeding and bathing conditions. On some days a substantial number of these flamingoes settle on Lake Nakuru producing an intriguing harmony of sights and sounds. Nakuru is full of wildlife and you have the opportunity for sightings of giraffe, rhino, buffalo, zebra, and many antelope species including waterbuck, eland, reedbuck, dik dik, impala, as well as Thomson and Grant gazelles. There is also an abundance of warthogs.

Day 8 Lion Hill Lodge
 Nakuru National Park

Dinner and overnight at Lion Hill Lodge. Swimming pool available.

Breakfast at Lion Hill Lodge. Set your wildlife viewing schedule with your guide. In the 1990's a number of species were introduced into this park by Kenyan Wildlife Service ("KWS"). Both black rhino and white rhino were relocated into the park and their populations continue to grow steadily. The Rothschild's giraffe herd now numbers between 60 and 70 members. With only a small population of lions and leopards to check population growth, the antelope populations are large and well habituated. There are no elephants in Nakuru.

Historically, Nakuru was a remote wildlife park, but development and urban sprawl have brought many people to this remote area. Human and wildlife conflicts were a constant problem. As a solution, Kenya Wildlife Service built an electric fence around this small park. Funds for the fence were provided by the World Wide Fund for the purpose of maintaining a large population of rhino in one well-protected zone, secure from poachers. Security costs per year for this rhino sanctuary top \$7,500(US) per rhino. The fence solved the conflict problems and it allows you the opportunity for viewing substantial populations of wildlife in this small geographic area.

Your Land Cruiser is equipped with a set of reference books so that when you identify a new animal, information and pictures are at your fingertips to supplement your guide's insights. Your Land Cruiser also has a full set of maps. During daily orientations your guide will use the maps to show you where you're going and where you've been.

Dinner and overnight at Lion Hill Lodge.

Day 9 Mara Sarova Camp
 Maasai Mara Game Reserve

Breakfast at Lion Hill Lodge. Morning drive westward into the Maasai Narok District. As you drive westward you will see the landscape change to drier savannah grasslands and begin to note many herds of cattle tended by local Maasai herdsmen. Today is a longer drive with a picnic lunch along the way. You'll begin your wildlife viewing as soon as you enter the Mara, traveling the distance to Mara Sarova, and arriving at your lodge in the late afternoon for sundowners and a luscious dinner.

The Maasai Mara is the northern section of the Serengeti ecosystem. This vast savannah grassland extends south for over five thousand square miles into Tanzania, forming one of the world's largest wildlife refuges. This land is as it was in the beginning: no fences, no settlements, just a perennial migration of wildlife. In a journey that reaches back through time, these herds of animals (currently estimated at 1.25 million) follow the seasonal rains traveling from the Serengeti into the Mara instinctually moving with the seasonal rainfalls, sometimes migrating as much as 300 miles a year. Wildlife is allowed to roam freely across the Kenyan and Tanzanian borders, uniting the two parks into a single ecological unit that supports the largest concentration of large mammals on the planet.

You'll have daily wildlife viewing available from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm with the flexibility to schedule each day as you choose with your guide. Wide arrays of habitats are represented in the Mara, each with a unique complement of flora and fauna. The variety of ecosystems makes the Mara a superb place to hone your tracking and spotting skills - allowing you continued opportunities to increase your wildlife knowledge. Acacia woodlands attract giraffes, while hippos occupy the deeper river pools. The eastern and western Mara, as well as the Mara River are accessible to you by Land Cruiser.

Dinner and overnight at Mara Sarova Camp. Swimming pool available.

Day 10 Mara Sarova Camp
 Maasai Mara Game Reserve

Breakfast at Mara Sarova Camp. Mara Sarova is located in a large wedge of rolling savannah between the Talek and Ntiakitak Rivers. The rivers make it difficult to gain access from the west, hence more private wilderness and wildlife for you. The resident lion pride in the area is known as the Ol Kiombo pride, and they are very active. You will have a good chance of sightings. Dusk and dawn are particularly good times for lion hunting. Darkness favors the nocturnal eyes of the predators and the advantages to grouping with other animals in a herd diminishes. Wildlife viewing as you schedule with your guide.

The annual migration is what makes the Mara famous. The herds gather in the hundreds of thousands on the plains of the Mara during July, August, September, October, and into November. The herds are drawn into the northern Serengeti region by areas of greater rainfall because the grasses grow taller and stay greener longer. The migration includes vast herds of wildebeest, but also zebra and Thomson's gazelle. Those herds remain in the Mara for up to four months - chomping and trampling the grass, grunting, and stampeding across the Mara River in search of fresh grass for grazing. The onset of the "short rains" sometime in November or early December sends the herds south into the Serengeti for fresh grass. Wildebeest are well-suited to harvest the short grasses that cover the semiarid plains of the Serengeti. The soils of this region have an underlying hardpan covered by a fertile layer of volcanic soil. Grass growing in this soil is highly nutritious taking up nutrients trapped by the hard pan.

It is the superabundance of prey that accounts for the Mara's big predator populations. At last count there were 22 lion prides in the Mara. Females within a lion pride are related to each other. Daughters, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and nieces live together for up to 15 years - the typical lifespan of a lioness. Males are forced to leave the pride at between two to three years of age. When not attached to a pride, lions are nomadic, occasionally banding together with other male cousins or brothers. The majority of prides in the Mara have two or three adult males, but the males-in-power can form larger alliances. Nomadic males are a constant territorial threat to the pride males.

Ask your guide about the better pride viewing opportunities for your safari season. He will consider taking you near Musiara Marsh, near the Governors Camp area of the Mara, which is prime territory for the Marsh lion pride. Other pride territories are near Rhino Ridge, near Paradise Plain, and near Kichwa Tembo. Each of these pride territories vary in size. The controlling factors tend to be habitat and the availability of food. Some Mara prides can do quite well with small amounts of territory, while other prides require substantially larger amounts of ground. While pride members defend their territories they can never keep an exclusive lock on all of their territory. Overlaps at the edges of the territories find young nomadic males creating confrontations whenever possible. During migration season, the lions prosper with sufficient food to feed all of the pride members. But once the herds migrate south into Tanzania, the resident wildlife becomes the prime target; and territory and hunting skills become the means of survival.

Dinner and overnight at Mara Sarova Camp.

Day 11 Mara Sarova Camp

Breakfast at Mara Sarova Camp. Wildlife viewing as you choose with your guide.

The Mara savannahs with their open country and grasslands support a healthy cheetah population. Cheetahs face increasing pressure from humans and land encroachment - with between 9,000 and 12,000 left in the world. You'll be scouting for cheetah in one of the two remaining cheetah strongholds in the world: the Mara/Serengeti ecosystem. (The other significant cheetah population is in Namibia and Botswana.)

The Mara cheetah population is threatened by a lack of genetic variation, making them susceptible to disease and decreasing reproduction. Still, there have been a number of cub births in the Mara cheetah population over the past five years. Cheetahs live alone or in small groups, not in prides. The

famous BBC documentary “Big Cats Diary” has filmed quite a number of Mara cheetah mothers with their cubs in the past few seasons. Look carefully around the termite mounds as they are popular hiding places for the Mara cheetahs.

Dinner and overnight at Mara Sarova Camp.

Day 12 Fairview Hotel
Nairobi

Breakfast at Mara Sarova Camp. Drive out after breakfast for the return drive to Nairobi with picnic lunch. Arrive in Nairobi in the afternoon with check in at the Fairview Hotel for day room for packing, showering, and relaxing. Dinner at the Fairview or other Nairobi restaurant, as arranged.

Evening transport to your international flight at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Day 13 Travel Day

International Travel.

INCLUDED IN YOUR SAFARI

- Full board accommodations in all lodges and tented camps
- All meals
- Unlimited game drives in private 4x4 safari Land Cruisers
- All park and entrance fees
- Experienced and professional safari naturalist guides
- Natural Learning program
- Enrollment with Flying Doctors Evacuation Service
- One year renewable membership to East African Wildlife Society, East Africa's premier wildlife conservation organization, with quarterly magazines delivered to your home
- All in-country transportation
- Laundry available at some lodges and camps
- Beverages in your 4x4 safari vehicle
- Bottled water available at all times
- Extensive pre-departure briefing and materials including health information, reading list and map

EXCLUDED FROM YOUR SAFARI

- Alcohol and some beverages in some camps and lodges
- Gratuities

We plan your wildlife adventures in areas where wildlife habitats are known to exist for the season and time you are traveling. Still, animals in the areas you are viewing are not in a zoo. They run freely, and we cannot always anticipate their movements.

Also, Deeper Africa uses best efforts to provide the lodging set out in this itinerary, but occasionally there are circumstances that occur in East Africa that require lodging substitutions. We reserve the right to make comparable lodging substitutions whenever necessary.

2010 CUSTOM DEPARTURE DATES

Schedule as you wish January through April and June through December.

2010 CUSTOM DEPARTURE PRICING

- 4 or more persons \$6,399 USD each
- 2 persons \$7,599 USD each
- Special kids pricing (under 12) \$4,049 USD
- Special kids pricing (under 15) \$4,399 USD

- Single supplement \$1,150 USD

Arrivals and departures out of Nairobi's International Airport. Prices do not include international air travel.