



Grant & Cameron Safaris

AFRICAN SAFARIS WITH THE PERSONAL TOUCH

www.ClassicAfricanSafaris.com

*Pre-departure Information
Booklet*







Grant and Cameron is a small owner operated and guided company offering old world safaris combining our own luxury mobile camps with our own farm home-stay and home stops covering Samburu, Shaba National Reserve, Aberdares, Rift Valley and the Masai Mara. Our set itinerary safaris are designed for a maximum of ten people. Sleeping tents are spacious full frame tents 10ft. X 13ft. with a 6ft. veranda, with shade netting over the fly sheet. They are well ventilated with large windows and mosquito netting inner doors at both ends and with a heavy-duty waterproof ground sheet. Each tent contains two extra long (6ft 9in) single beds 30 inches wide with thick foam mattresses, sheets, pillows, continental quilts and towels. You may request a double bed 60 inches wide if you like. Ask for sheets and blankets if you would prefer them. Outside each tent is a table and

two chairs, and a washbasin. Behind each tent is a private loo and shower and another washbasin. Hot water is available all day. Each evening traditional lamps are lit throughout the camp. Every tent is provided with a gas light, torch, insect repellents, dressing gown, soap, rubber slip-on shoes, mineral water and towels. Washing powder and an elasticised washing line and mirror are also provided.



Transportation

Our vehicles have been selected for their performance and comfort. We use custom built long-wheel-base four wheel drives with plenty of leg room, large game viewing roof hatches, car fridge, reference books, and full recovery gear. Rice bags for steadying your camera are provided for the photographic enthusiasts. Normally we take a maximum of 5 clients per vehicle. All your personal belongings travel with you in the vehicle. There are VHF radios between all cars and the camp, and hand sets for walks. During game drives it is best to open all the windows as the sounds of the bush give important clues to the whereabouts of game. In each vehicle you will find containers with home made biscuits, boiled sweets, and "trail mix".



Food and Drinks

Three meals per day are prepared by our expert “mpishi” (camp cook), including hearty breakfasts, buffet lunches and candle lit dinners. Meals are served in the dining tent, or under the shade of a tree. Special dietary needs can be catered for if we are given advance warning. Food is cooked on an open fire, with fresh bread baked daily. Ice is normally available made from “safe” water..

Soft drinks, beer and wine are provided free of charge, and limited amounts of standard spirits. We recommend that, if possible, you drink bottled or purified water; this is provided in camp. You are most welcome to bring your own spirits; mixers will be provided. There is a good inbound duty-free shop at Nairobi Airport. If you can, *please* buy a bottle duty-free even if you do not intend to drink it, (for example Whisky). We will gladly buy it off you!

A Typical Day

One of the wonderful things about an African Safari is that you can leave your watch behind. We do things to the rhythm of nature rather than the conventions of modern society. However to give you a rough idea the following timetable describes a typical day.

5:30am Morning tea/coffee/juice

Most mornings start early, either with morning game drives, sometimes an optional walk, or an early start for our next destination. If we are setting out early on a game drive, you will be woken up by one of the camp crew with tea or coffee and biscuits brought to your tent before dawn.

6:00am - 11:00am Game drive and/or walk

11:00am Breakfast

12:00 - 3:00pm Afternoon rest/reading/showers

Most game is resting in the shade by mid-morning and we normally do likewise. It is a good opportunity to shower, catch up on reading, or write diaries and postcards.

3:00 pm Lunch

We then have a late buffet style lunch before going out for the evening game drive, or an optional evening walk.

4:00pm Game drive and/or walk

7:00pm Evening showers

7:30pm Pre-dinner drinks

8:15pm Dinner

Sometimes we may have a longer morning, taking a picnic breakfast with us and coming back to camp in the early afternoon.

Participation

Our safaris are more for the discerning traveller with a love of nature and a desire to get away to the unspoiled wilderness areas. People who come on safari with us should, however, have a sense of fun and adventure. Ours are tented safaris to remote places where roads can be rough and dusty and you may even have to help push the vehicle out of the mud if necessary! We give you as many opportunities as possible throughout the safari to get out on foot, both for exercise and to give you a better appreciation of the bush. We believe that this will add another dimension to your appreciation of Africa.



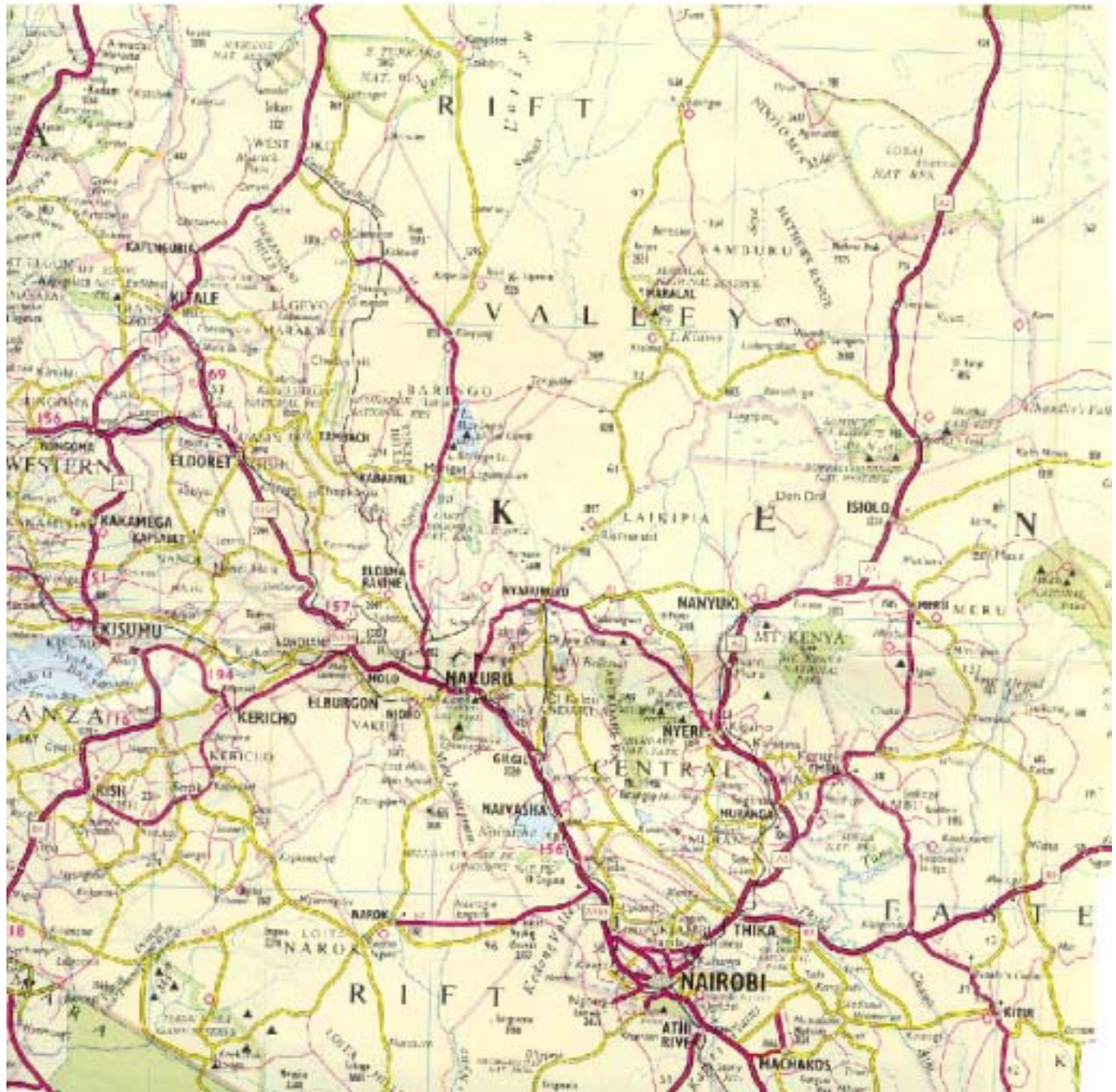
Guides

Probably the most important aspect of your safari in Africa is your guide. We believe in the old-world approach, where you are guided from start to finish by qualified and experienced professionals. We, your guides, are your insight into everything about Africa: its wildlife, its people, its history. We take guiding as a very serious responsibility, both as your hosts, and once we have got to know one another, as friends.

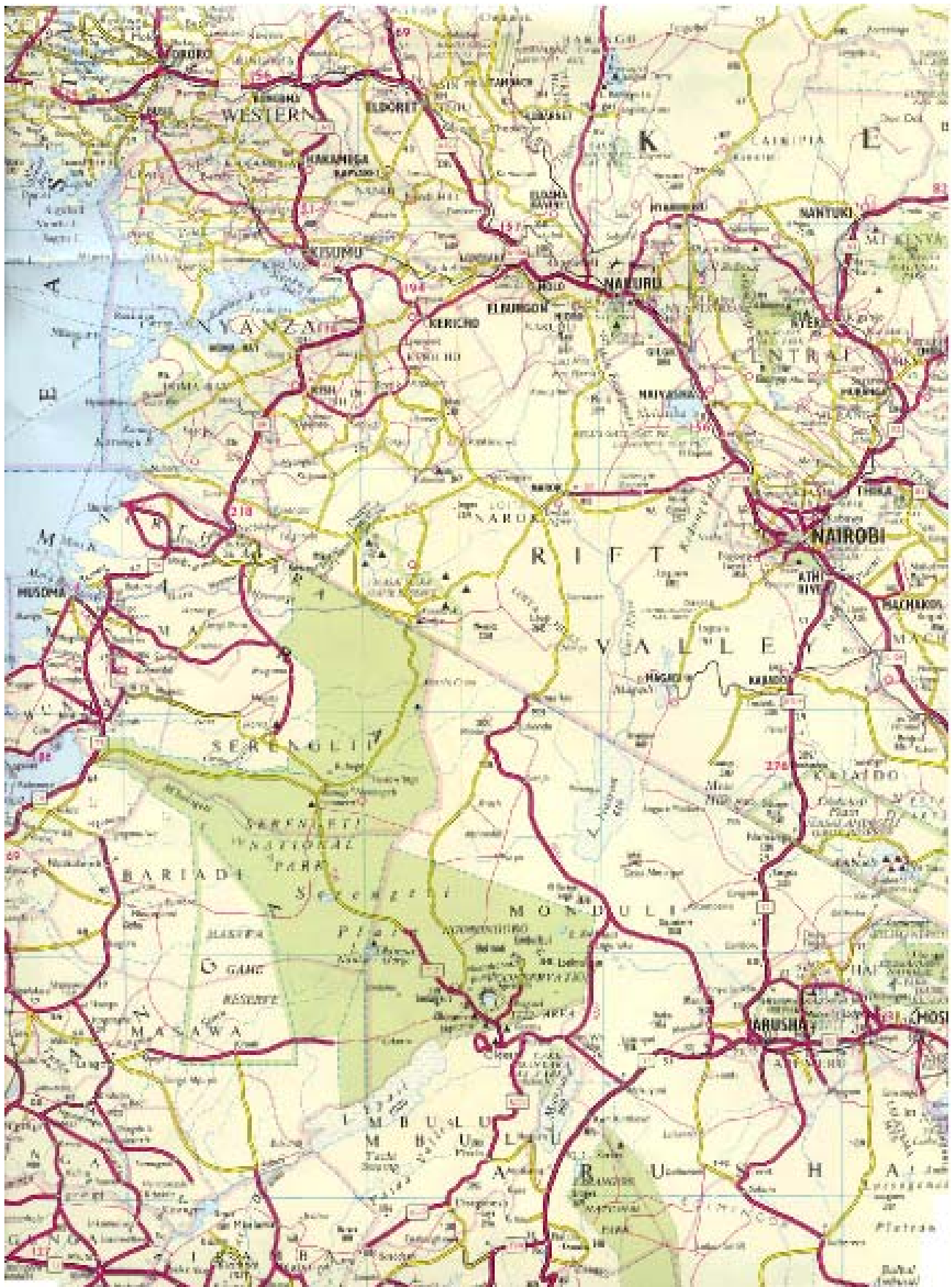




Nairobi - Samburu - Rongai



Rongai - Mara - Nairobi - Mara - Nairobi



Samburu

Samburu Game reserve was formed in 1962, due to the foresight of the County Council and generous assistance given by several individuals and foundations. Buffalo Springs Game reserve was opened to the public in 1965, followed by Shaba National Reserve in 1976.

People

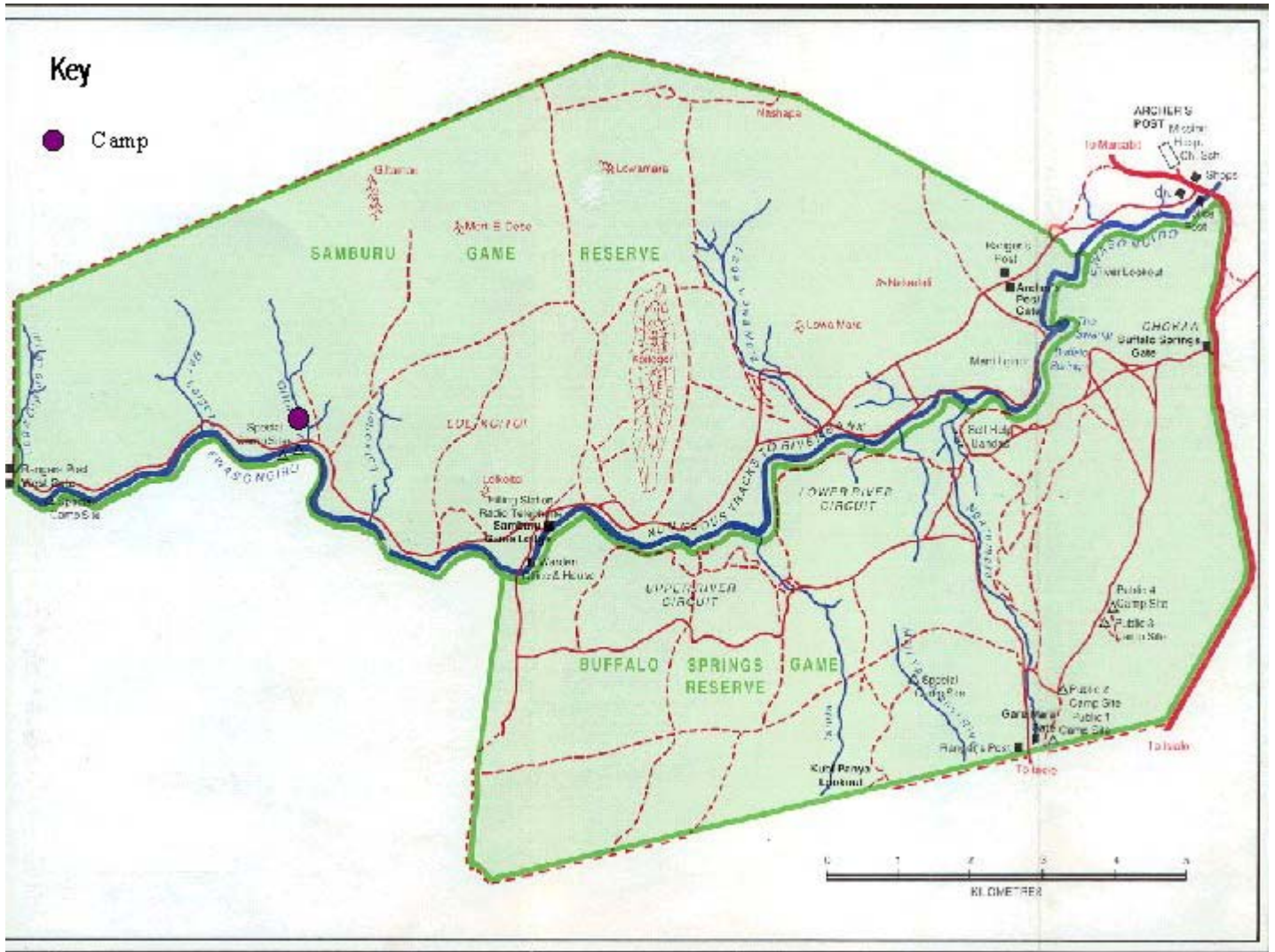
Three main groups of people live in the area around the reserves: the Samburu, Turkana and Boran. The Samburu people are closely related to the Maasai, with whom they share a similar culture and language. The Samburu may be found in the area stretching north from Mt. Kenya to Mt. Kulal on the eastern side of Lake Turkana. Most are nomadic pastoralists, moving across the harsh northern landscape in search of green pastures for their cattle sheep and goats. The Turkana are Nilo-Hamitic people inhabiting one of the harshest regions in Kenya, on the western shores of Lake Turkana. Recently, many Turkana have settled as far south as Isiolo, as repeated droughts and famines have ravaged their homeland. They are nomadic people and herd camels as well as sheep, goats and cattle. The Boran are Cushitic and are the largest Galla-speaking group in Kenya. Their traditional homelands straddle the Ethiopian border, but they are now found much further south. They herd cattle, sheep and goats, and in dry areas also keep camels.

Climate

Samburu/Shaba are generally hot and dry, with cold nights. The average annual maximum temperature is 30°C and average annual minimum temperature is about 20°C. The 'long rains' are generally expected from early April to the end of May. The 'short rains' are from mid-October to mid-December. Dry conditions usually prevail from June to early October, and December to April.



Map of Samburu Reserve



Rift Valley

Some 25 million years ago two continents, Africa and Eurasia, moving on their respective tectonic plates, collided and recoiled - shattering the earth's crust and creating the land feature known as the Great Rift Valley. The valley extends over 6,500 km from the Dead Sea in the north to Beira in the south. It varies in width from thirty to ninety kilometres, and in depth from a few hundred to a thousand metres far below sea level. In Kenya the valley is deepest in the hundred and sixty kilometres that run north from Nairobi. Most of the lakes in the Rift, such as Lake Nakuru, are shallow and having no outlet to the sea, are high in mineral content as the evaporation of water leaves salts behind.

Because the earth's crust is weakest where the valley is deepest, impressive volcanoes are associated with the Rift Valley including Mt Kilimanjaro (Tanzania), Mt. Kenya, and Mt. Meru (Tanzania). There are also Calderas such as the crater of Menengai near Nakuru where the whole mountain collapsed inward following volcanic eruption. Hamish's farm is situated on the Western edge of the Rift Valley, approximately 200km North/West of Nairobi City.



Masai Mara



The rolling grasslands of the Mara are part of the same ecosystem as Tanzania's Serengeti. It is here that the huge herds of wildebeest and zebra come as part of their annual migration in search of greener pastures. There is excellent game viewing throughout the year, with plains game like wildebeest, zebra, hartebeest, topi, attended by their predators: lion, leopard and cheetah, hyena, and jackal.

In 1948, the Mara triangle, a 520km² area between the Siria Escarpment, the Tanzanian border and the Mara River was declared a National Game Reserve. In 1961 the Borders were extended east of the river to encompass a 1813km² area. However, in 1984 three sections were excised and the Masai Mara National Reserve was reduced to its present day size of about 1510km².

People

Traditionally the Maasai are a cattle keeping tribe. Cattle provide almost all their daily needs: milk and blood for food, hides for leather and meat on ceremonial occasions. Sheep and goats are also kept, but are of lesser importance. The strong, almost mystic, bond the Maasai have with their cattle together with the fact they

inhabit a semi-arid environment forces them to live a semi-nomadic life as they search for good pasture and water for their herds. The Maasai of the Mara plains still cling to their traditional way of life to a great extent. However throughout Maasailand changes are inexorably happening; more children are attending schools, more women are earning money from selling their traditional craftwork, and more young men are seeking employment in towns and tourist lodges.

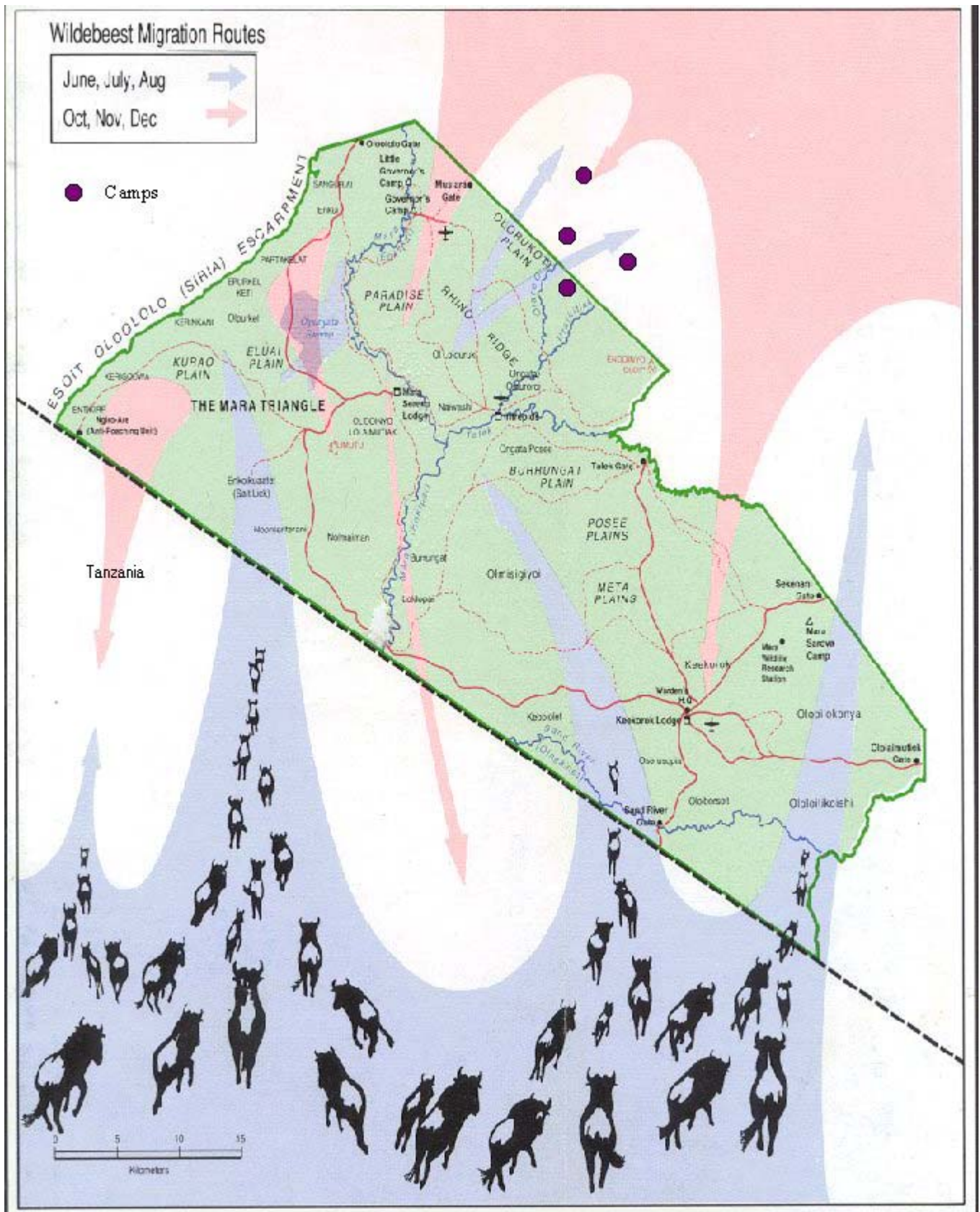
Climate

For most of the year days are fairly hot, up to around 30°C, nights are usually around 10-5°C. (*Early morning game drives are surprisingly cold as there is usually a wind across the plains.*

Bring a wind proof jacket and something warm underneath such as a "fleece" or a good jumper).



Map of Mara National Reserve



General information and safari notes

Laundry

Washing and ironing of laundry (except underwear) is provided on safari and at Rongai.

Passport

You will need a passport, valid for at least six months *after* your trip has finished. Throughout your trip it is a wise precaution to carry a photocopy of your passport or a note of its details separately. This will aid the authorities should it get lost.

Visas

Currently a visa is required for all countries except commonwealth countries. Keep in mind that visa requirements and costs for African countries change without notice. If you have any queries please contact your local Kenyan Consulate.

General Health

Malaria

There is no vaccination against malaria, so it is necessary to take a course of anti-malarial tablets. Consult your vaccination centre or doctor for the most up-to-date recommendations. Most types of anti-malarial prophylactic need to be taken for some weeks before and after entering or leaving a malarial area. The only real prevention is to avoid being bitten, so cover up. Wear long legged and sleeved clothing between the hours of dusk and dawn. Wear repellent applied directly to the skin or soaked into your clothes.

We carry a very basic medical kit in the vehicles to cover the usual minor requirements. If you require specific medication, (for example for hay fever, epilepsy, diabetes etc.) be sure to bring enough with you when you come. It is also advisable that you take a small personal first aid kit.

Vaccinations

You should contact your nearest specialist travel medical and vaccination clinic. Please be aware that some vaccinations are completed in stages and can take up to several months, therefore contact your doctor as soon as possible.

Dental check-up

We advise that you have a dental check-up close to your departure date to avoid unnecessary discomfort or emergencies.



Insurance

It is a BOOKING CONDITION that you take out a full travel insurance policy, and we will also take out temporary membership of the Flying Doctor's Society to evacuate you to Nairobi in an emergency. Nairobi Hospital is one of the best hospitals in East Africa. Make sure that you understand the full contents of your insurance policy. It is important to consider your needs for "pre-existing" illness and valuable item excess covers. You should carry your insurance policy with you at all times preferably in your money wallet.

Kenya climate

Although the equator runs through Kenya, the country has a generally mild climate inland, due to the high altitude (often over 400ft.) of the central plateau. There is plenty of clear sunshine all year round and average maximum temperatures range between 25°C and 30°C. At lower altitudes, such as Samburu, temperatures are higher, around 30-35°C all year round. On the coast temperatures are often in the high 20's or low 30's, but the humidity is high. Rainfall is often heavy around April/May and November. We usually do not operate safaris at this time.

What to Take

Documents

- Flight tickets
- Passport and photocopies of documents
- Money and travellers cheques in **US\$**
- Credit cards
- Travel vouchers
- Vaccination certificates

Packing List

- 2/3 sets of trousers
- Shirts/t-shirts
- 2 pairs of shorts
- 1 warm sweater or 'fleece'
- 1 light windproof jacket
- 1 pair of leather walking shoes or trainers
- Sturdy sandals (optional) *we provide rubber slip ons for use in camp*
- Socks
- Underwear
- Swimwear
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Tropical strength insect repellent
- Camera and film
- **Binoculars (*one good pair each is strongly recommended rather than sharing*)**
- Torch and batteries

Photography and Video

Please respect the attitude of the local people toward photography and only use your camera if you have permission from “the models” to do so. Never try to “steal” a photo against the will of the person concerned. Let us help you negotiate terms, particularly with the Maasai and Samburu (as they will expect to be paid), before you start snapping.

It is a good rule never to take photographs of border posts, persons in uniform and, of course, military installations.

We suggest that you resist the temptation to take photographs of animals at 30+ metres unless there is a good reason. For most normal shots we suggest that you use the rule-of-thumb that the subject should fill at least a quarter to one third of the viewfinder.

There are rice bags under the seat to steady your camera when using telephoto lenses

Electricity

Mains voltage is 220-240 A.C. available at Hotels and Lodges, but not in camp. Bring adapter plugs. Our safari vehicles provide 12v D.C. through a cigarette lighter or other sockets.

Trade not Aid

Please **Do not** bring sweets or trinkets, simply to give away to children. The gesture may make the giver feel good, but does nothing for the receiver, other than to encourage a culture of begging. If you want to do some lasting good, you could support a worthwhile charity or trade with locals for their art and craft, giving their culture a value and preserving pride on both sides.

Money

We advise you to change **US \$100 into Kenya Shillings** per person at the airport, **after** making contact with your Hotel transfer to confirm that you have arrived safely.

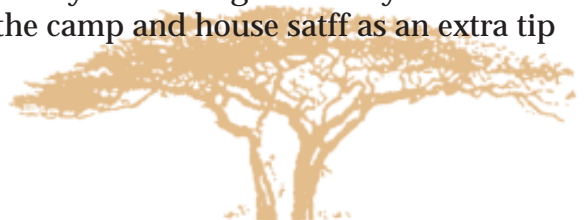
You will only be able to change money in major towns.

We suggest that you give porters/waiters approximately KSh 20/= tip.

We suggest that you might consider tipping the camp and house staff US \$150 per double for a full safari. Please give any tips to your safari guide so they can be distributed amongst all those who have helped on your safari.

We support the Vanessa Grant School for the Mentally Handicapped and we are always grateful for your help. Please ask us for details or you can find information about the school on our website.

If at the end of your safari you have any old clothes that you would otherwise simply throw away, please put them in your laundry bag and give them to your safari guide. They will then be taken back to Rongai, washed and shared out amongst the camp and house staff as an extra tip at the end of the safari season.



Some other points to consider

It is unlikely that we will be forced to make itinerary changes, but you should be aware that in extreme weather this may be necessary.

You will be able to confirm your onward flight when you reach Rongai, please ask your guide if you want to do this.

A safari is like most other things in life : you get out what you put in. Please bear that in mind when it comes to looking for game, and interacting with your fellow travellers.

Where to shop in Nairobi

Undugu Shop, Woodvale Grove, Westlands.

The Undugu Shop is the outlet of the Undugu Society, a community help project based in Nairobi. Profits go to this worthy cause. All types of African crafts are sold through this unassuming little shop. The quality and prices are both reasonable.

Spinners Web.

Viking House, Ground Floor, Waiyaki Way

The Craft Market.

ABC Place, Ground Floor, Waiyaki Way

African Heritage.

The Nairobi City Market.

Biashara Street.

This street near the city market is worth a few minutes if you are interested in fabrics. Most of the shops are owned by Indian Traders who supply the majority of the fabrics to the local market.

Utamaduni Friends of Africa

Bogani Road, Karen

Robert Glen's Art Gallery

Langata

Things to do when in Nairobi.

Nairobi Museum, Museum Hill

Karen Blixen's House.

The museum was originally the home of Karen Blixen, who came to Kenya from Denmark in the early part of this century; the present museum site is at the heart of the larger coffee plantation run by Blixen between 1914 and 1931. The house and surrounding land was donated by the Danish government to Kenya at independence; the house was restored by the Danish government and was used during the filming of *Out of Africa*, which immortalised Karen Blixen's book by the same name. The Museum was opened to the public in 1986.

Giraffe Manor.

The Giraffe Manor, built in 1932 by Sir David Duncan, is situated on 120 acres of land just a few miles from the centre of Nairobi.

In 1974 Jock Leslie-Melville, grandson of a Scottish earl, and his wife Betty, who also founded the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW), bought the Manor. They then moved five babies of the highly endangered Rothschild giraffe to their property where they have been successfully reared and they now have their own babies.



When Jock died, Betty decided to open her house, now called the Giraffe Manor, to visitors. Exclusive, spacious and elegant, it is the only place in the world that you can feed giraffe from your second floor bedroom window, over the lunch table, and at the front door. Guests can feed and photograph the giraffe and the warthogs at the Manor, and also wander through the adjoining primeval forest to view the bushbuck, dik dik, and more than 180 species of birds.

Daphne Sheldrick's Orphanage.

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust was established in memory of David Sheldrick, famous naturalist and founder Warden of Kenya's giant Tsavo East National Park in which he served from 1948 until 1976.

Since its inception in 1977 the Trust has played an extremely significant and important role in Kenya's conservation effort and the orphan elephants and rhinos are just some of the many wildlife commitments it is involved in.

African Butterfly Research Institute/Butterfly Africa

The world's most comprehensive private collection of African butterflies is housed in Karen.

Recommended Reading List

I Dreamed of Africa - Kuki Gallman ISBN - 0 14 014459 5

African nights - Kuki Gallman - ISBN - 0060954833

Out of Africa - Karen Blixen ISBN - 0 7126 1016 2

The Flame Trees of Thika - Elspeth Huxley - ISBN - 014 118370 80

The Sixth Extinction - Richard Leaky ISBN - 0 297 81733 7

Straight on till Morning, The Life of Beryl Markham - Mary S Lovell - ISBN - 0 09 95 36005

End of the Game - Peter Beard - ISBN - 087701521X

Safari - A Chronicle of Adventure - Bartle Bull - ISBN - 0140168850

Loney planet Guide Books East Africa - ISBN - 0864424493

The Safari Companion - R.D. Estes

Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania - Zimmerman et al.

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