

Sara's Signature Safaris

Ultimate Sourcebook *East Africa*

"Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda"



Sara de Maine Kearns, Owner
Travels with Sara

2024 Edition

Sara's Signature Safaris

Ultimate Sourcebook for the Safari Enthusiast



East Africa Edition 2024

Sara's personal picks for the best safari guides and camps in the business from my own personal experiences.

travel with a legend....

East Africa...

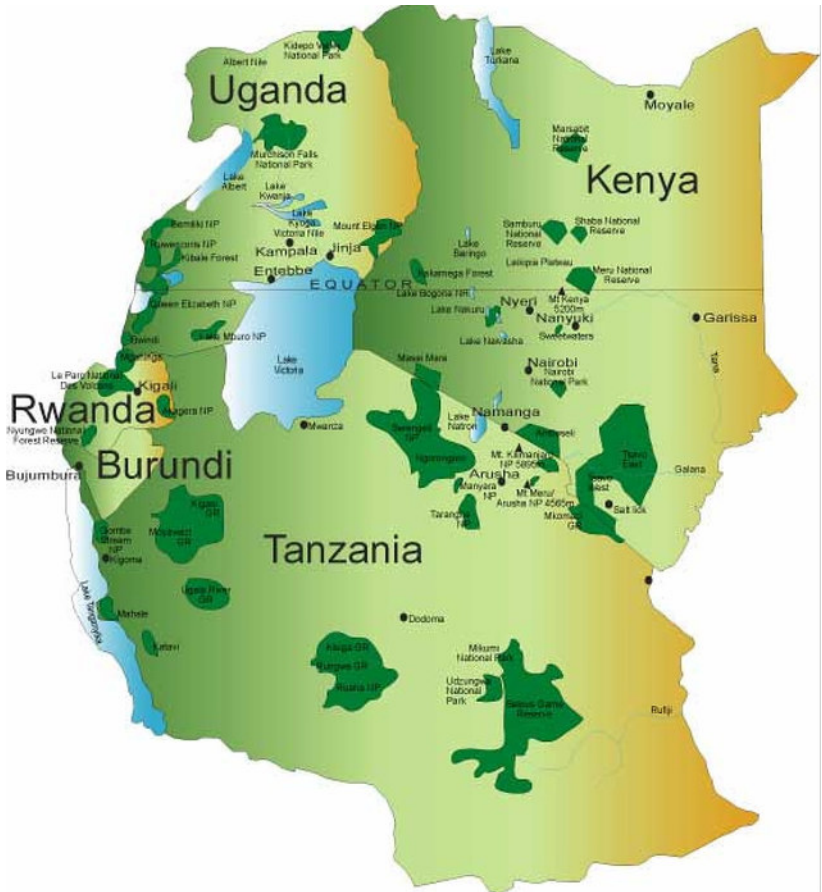


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Preface

This book is important to me to ensure that you have the very best safari experience. It is of the utmost importance to have the best camp and guide to enhance your safari experience.

Over the years that I have spent in travel, about forty-five dare I say, one of the things I have learned is that a good guide is essential to your overall safari experience hence the reason this book was born.

All my source books (Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Uganda, South Africa) all cover my personal favorite camps and guides that I have come across in my travels.

This list grows every year !!!



My history of travel goes way back. As the saying goes, “where there’s a will there’s a way.” As a child my father regaled me with stories of the Dark Continent inhabited by wild animals and colorful people, places with strange sounding names; Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar. He told tales of journeys from Cairo to the Cape. The exotic animals and brightly plumaged birds filled my imagination, I was enthralled.



My dream came to life after I joined BOAC as a (multi lingual) stewardess, this was my ticket to the world and Africa was high on the long list of places I wanted to go. The journey began and I never looked back, in fact I married a foreign correspondent with CBS News who was an African expert. After several safaris and many miles of global travel I am doing what I love best, sharing my travel experiences with you. Thus in 2009 my business was born.

“Travels with Sara”

What to Expect

Before the trip I was deluged with information, brochures, pamphlets, packing lists....

Would we really be sleeping in tents? Flying in single-engine planes and landing on grass fields / strips? It was all a bit daunting. As it turned out, nothing prepared me fully for the actual experience.



You will get close to the animals...really close!!

Sometimes you will be mere feet away from elephants, zebras, lions and other game. That's what a safari is all about. Under any circumstances, do not get out of your safari vehicle unless told to do so. The animals won't like it....neither will your guides.



You don't need to bring a lot of anything..... You need very little, my advice is to take half of what is suggested. The size of the bag I take (pictured) is 20x10x8 and still in use today, plus a back pack.



Travels with Sara has been making dreams come true with her Signature Safaris since 2009.

"Tell me your dreams and I will make them come true!"

As my name implies, I accompany my guests, which is important. I go the extra mile to ensure that every detail is taken care of from meet and greet plane side, help with arrival formalities, private vehicle, car and driver in Nairobi, transfers to Wilson airport for internal flights, Masai guides to welcome you at air strip and drive to camp.

Safaris are perceived as trips of a lifetime and they are! Do not under estimate the power of such a trip. They are addictive! For those of you looking for an awesome family vacation go on safari, your children will thank you.

An ideal safari is up to you and your wallet...

I specialize in giving excellent value for money. My truthful answer on cost... It depends if you want simple or over the top luxury. Somewhere in-between a realistic budget starting at \$900 per person per day will give you an excellent safari experience (hotels, transfers, internal air, camps, park fees and taxes). Extras; excursions, insurance, tips and visas.

Suggested safari tipping per person/per day

Camp tip box: \$15+

Guide pay personally: \$20+

If present Tracker paid by guide: \$5+

All \$\$ must have a series date after 2013 or they will not be accepted. Bring small bills.

All camps are inclusive of: Meals (all fresh), drinks, sundowners, bush walks, game drives, laundry and basic toiletries.

For those wanting to really open up the wallet, a private professional guide, starting at \$1,000 per day, is the ultimate safari extra.

In my opinion, to have the best experience and value is to stay put. Use one camp, a superb guide and a private vehicle... go slowly and enjoy!!

A safari can be planned months out or last minute. With my excellent connections anything is possible.



Packing Ideas...

You need to limit the weight of your luggage to 30 pounds and use soft-sided duffel bag. Be prepared to pay if you have excess weight.

Please use cotton/linen in earthy tones for the game drives. Bright colors are fine in camp. Laundry is done daily (except undies). Travel in comfortable clothes and wear your walking/hiking shoes on the plane and layer as much as you can to save space in your bag. Wear your fleece, long sleeve jacket, scarf and long sleeve shirt.

Malaria pills (Malarone if needed)

Long pants, Shorts cargo (lots of pockets)

Long sleeved shirt, T-shirts both long / short sleeved

Summer dress, Skirt, Sarong, Kikoi

Shawl, Wrap, Scarf

Underware

Sox (not white)

Cotton bandana

Sandals or Flip-flops

Sun hat, Baseball cap

Sunscreen, Lip balm

Sunglasses

Swimsuit

Fleece, Rain Jacket, Gloves

Walking shoes

Camera equipment

Mobile phone charger

Binoculars

Something smarter for dinner in the evening

Universal plug converter (3 pin square)

Personal Toiletries



Camp provides soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, bug spray, umbrella and first aid kit.

About Kenya

"Known as the original land of the safari"

Kenya is a country in East Africa with coastline on the Indian Ocean. It encompasses savannah, lake lands, the dramatic Great Rift Valley and mountain highlands. It's also home to wildlife like lions, elephants and rhinos. From Nairobi, the capital, safaris visit the Maasai Mara Reserve, known for its annual wildebeest migrations, and Amboseli National Park, offering views of Tanzania's 5,895m Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Kenya is known for being home to the "Big Five" including the East African lion, the leopard, the black rhinoceros, the African elephant, and the Cape buffalo. But it's also home to the "Marine Five", which are the orca, the great white shark, the humpback whale, the tiger shark, and the giant manta ray.



Map of Kenya



WHY I  KENYA
tell the world #whyilovekenya

Endorsed by Kenya Tourism Board

Telling a story from a personal experience is always a more authentic way of convincing your audience it is real and believable. It is more so when the subject matter is about destination Kenya whose attractions and activities are ever thrilling and inviting.

As a tourist destination, Kenya has continued to receive visitors from all over the world courtesy of other avenues; the testimonials from those with first hand information after their visit to the country.

A peek into Sara's guide gives a perfect example of experiential stories told from the traveler's eye. She highlights aspects such as mode of access to the destination, accommodation, cost among other essentials while on a *safari*. In the guide, she unpacks some of the magical experiences while on her tour to several tourist attractions spread across the country; From an opportunity to hand-feed giraffes, adopt elephants, to a moment of sampling the various trade artifacts as she interacts with diverse cultures.

She tells of a lifetime opportunity for a sampling of excellent safari camps that allows for a leisurely intake of Kenya's ambience against the backdrop of nature and the warmth of the Kenyan people.





Kenya is home to an authentic safari, a host of vibrant attractions with pristine beaches, resorts & spas, mountains, waterfalls, wildlife and cultures that gel together in the peoples inherent ability to be good hosts.

Indeed this edition is not an end to other platforms that the country leverages on to showcase her diversity in tourism offerings. The information carried in this guide is not exhaustive; there are more attractions, more accommodations across the country for you to sample.

We at KTB support all the platforms that serve to showcase the destination at its best with regards to tourism products.

To this end we endorse this edition of "Sara's Signature Safaris Guide Book" while commending Sara for her incisiveness. Enjoy the ride.



Getting to Kenya



Kenya Airways (KQ) has the only direct flight to Kenya from JFK saving lots of time.

Best airlines I have used with one-stop to Nairobi:

Sky Team

Kenya Airways, KLM, Air France, Delta

One World

British Airways, American, Qatar

Star Alliance

Lufthansa, Swiss, United, Turkish

Emirates

Once there you can either drive or fly to camp.

Safari Link, Governor's Aviation, Air Kenya, Jambo Jet or private charter (Scenic Air & Tropic Air) are my choices.

Nairobi Hotels

Hemingways... A five star hotel offering world class service, superb accommodations with a spa and exquisite dining. **Eden**, is a Four star luxury boutique hotel just 25 minutes from Nairobi. Filled with art.

Giraffe Manor (*Safari Collection Property*)... Four star hotel for the ultimate breakfast experience.

Sarova Stanley Hotel (oldest hotel in Nairobi)... Five star hotel in Nairobi established in 1902, with the historic Thorn Tree Cafe which was used as a message depot (pre the electronic era).

The Norfolk... Four star hotel "Nairobi's gem" with its historical charm. Located downtown.

Aero Club... A great simple convenient hotel if arriving at night. Located at Wilson Airport for early flights out.

Crowne Plaza and Four Points by Sheraton Nairobi
Four star hotels located at JKIA (NBO) airport, with restaurants and pools. Great day room accommodations.

Manzili House... Located in Karen, it's a Swahili inspired lovely Lamu style boutique hotel (6 rooms).

Social House... A stylish, smart, social hub in the heart of the city, is a future-oriented tech-savvy property.

Nairobi National Park

The Emakoko
Porini Nairobi Tented Camp



What to do in Nairobi

Giraffe Center - Want a great experience? Go to the Giraffe Center and get kissed by a Giraffe.

Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage - Spend time cozying up to baby elephants and adopt your own. For an additional cost you can do a private viewing.

Matbronze Art Gallery and Foundry - Visit this beautiful gallery and see amazing bronze work and have a wonderful alfresco lunch.

Karen Blixen Cafe and Museum - Out of Africa author, great place for lunch and beautiful surroundings.

Anna Trzebinski - Fashion designer extraordinaire. Boutique located at Hemingways Hotel & Eden.

Rift Africa - Specializes in high quality leather.

Langata Link - Local market for handicrafts.

Talisman Restaurant - Located in Langata, one of my favorite places to dine outdoors.

Cultiva Restaurant - Best food in Kenya.

In Kenya Samburu National Park is the famous Singing Wells...a must see!!



Ultimate Private Air Charters

Governors Aviation...

operates a fleet of Cessna Grand Caravans which carry up to 12 passengers. With regular and private charter services throughout Kenya.



Scenic Air Charters...

offers executive private air charters for up to 9 passengers in their Grand Cessna Caravan fleet to take you where your hearts desire within Africa.

Z Boskovic Air...

is one of East Africa's leading private charter company. Throughout East Africa, Z.Boskovic Air Charters Ltd is a byword for the best in the charter business.



Tropic Air Heli...

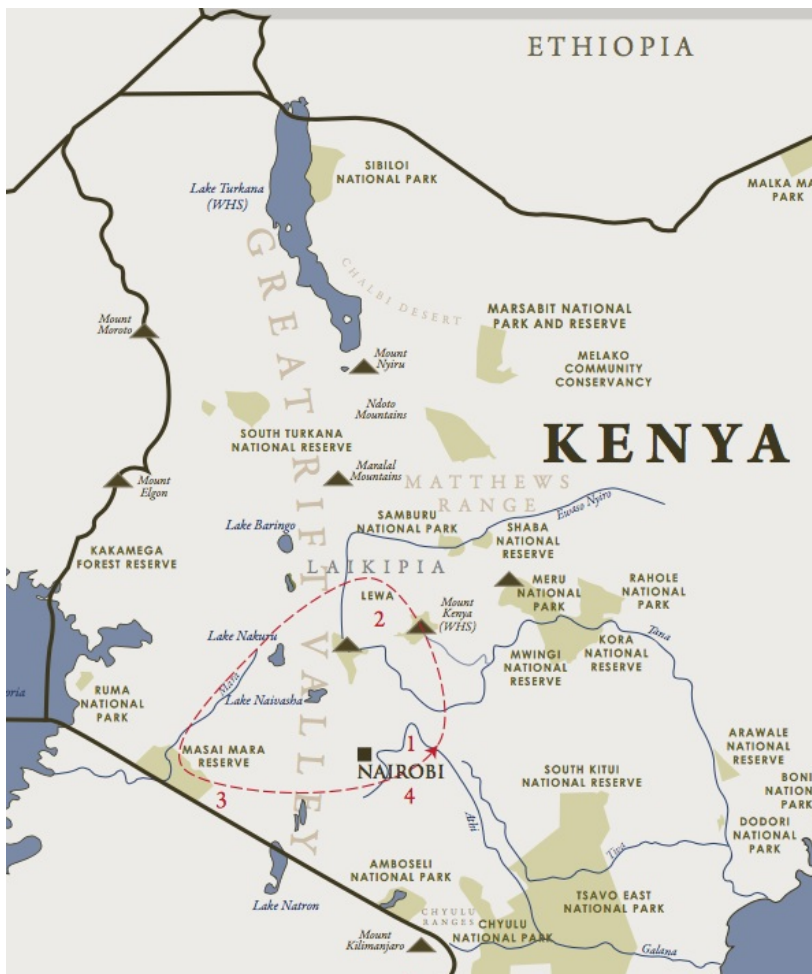
for the off the beaten path adventurous flyer, Tropic Air has a fleet of helicopters that can accommodate up to 6 passengers. Think Mt. Kenya and Lake Turkana.

Maasai Mara National Game Reserve

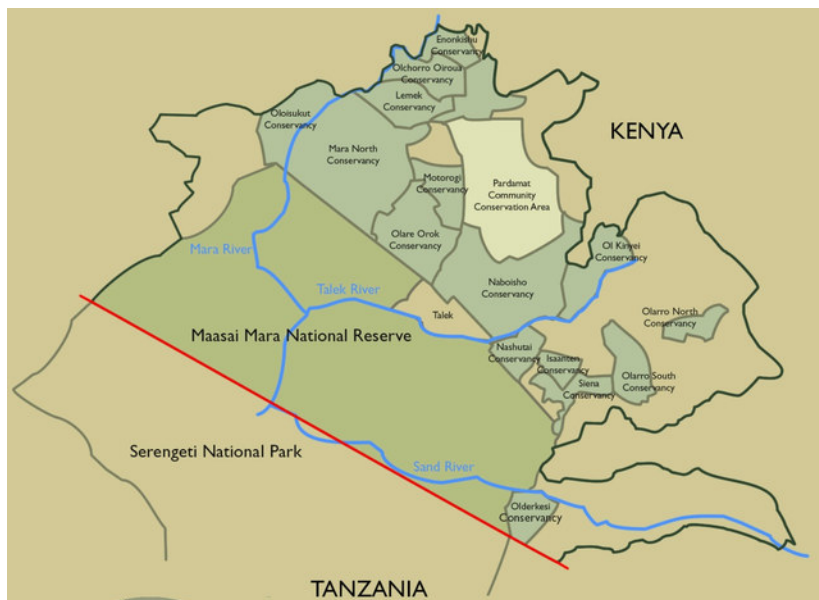
Angama:	Angama Mara Angama Tented Camp
Alex Walker's:	Nkorombo Mobile
Asilia:	Rekero Camp
Atua Enkop:	Ngenche Safari Camp
Elewana:	Sand River
Emboo:	Emboo River Camp <i>(solar powered electric vehicle)</i>
Enaidura:	Enaidura Camp
Governor's:	Main Camp Little Governor's <i>(balloon)</i> Il Moran Private Camp
Heritage Hotels:	Elatia Camp
J. W. Marriott:	Masai Mara Lodge
Safari Collection:	Sala's Camp
Sentinel:	Sentinel Mara Camp
Tangulia:	Tangulia Mara Camp (Jackson Looseyia)
Zebra Collection:	Zebra Plains Lalashe

National Parks of Kenya

*****All camps in Mara National Game Reserve are now subject to a 12 hour daily fee which now means anyone spending the last night will now have to pay a daily fee on the last day.***



Mara Conservancies



Eco Training is a very important conservation program that has expanded to the Mara. For anyone interested in studying wildlife... this is a must.

www.ecotraining.co.za

Enonkishu Conservancy:

Tarquin Wood: House in the Wild.....
can be combined with Eco Training

Ripoi:

Alfred Korir: Lalashe Mara Ripoi
Porini: Giraffe

Siana:

Jackson Looseyia: Mara Siana

Maasai Mara Conservancy Camps

Mara North:

Alex Walker's:	Serian, Ngare Serian
Bushtops:	Mara Bushtops
Elewana:	Elephant Pepper
Great Plains:	Mara Toto, Expedition
Kicheche:	Mara
Offbeat:	Mara Camp, Ndoto, Mobile Riding Safari
Roberts:	Richard's Camp, Forest Camp

Naboisho:

Asilia:	Naboisho Camp
Great Plains:	Nyika
Hemingways:	Ol Seki
Kicheche:	Kicheche Valley (<i>electric vehicle</i>)
Saruni Base Camp:	Leopard Hill

Ol Kinyei:

Porini:	Mara, Cheetah, Safari Cottages
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Olare Motorogi:

Great Plains:	Mara Plains
Kicheche:	Bush
Porini:	Lion

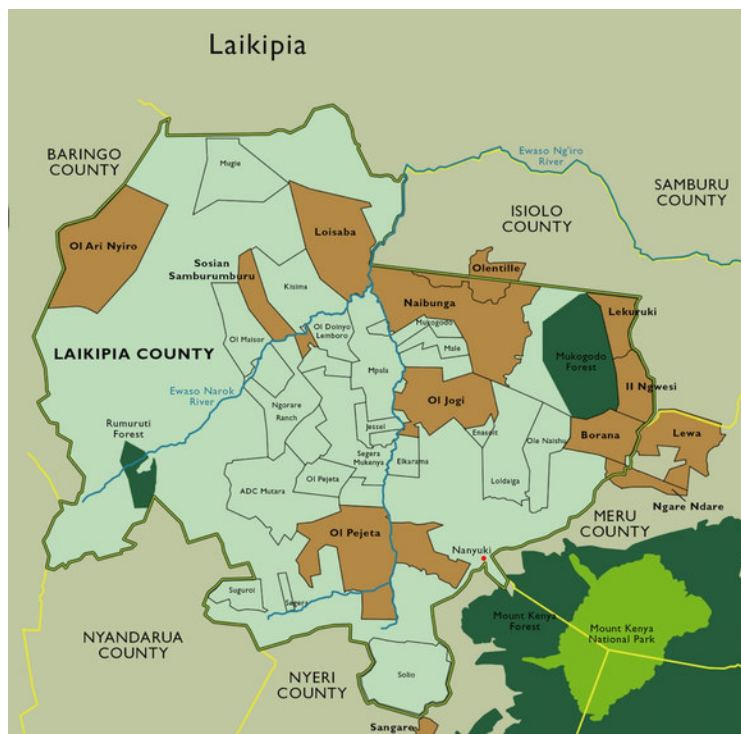
Olderikesi:

Cottar's Safaris:	1920's Camp Bush Villa
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Laikipia Camps

Alec Wildenstein:	Ol Jogi Conservancy
Asilia:	Ol Pejeta (<i>electric vehicle</i>)
Ed & Moon Hough:	The Safari Series (<i>Land Rovers</i>)
Elewana:	Loisaba, Kifaru House
Governor's:	Mugie House
Jochen Zeitz:	Segera Retreat
Kicheche:	Ol Pejeta
Lewa:	Sirikoi, Borana Lewa House Lewa Wilderness (<i>electric vehicle</i>)
Offbeat Safaris:	Sosian Lodge, Ekorian's Mugie
Porini:	Ol Pejeta Rhino Camp
Safari Collection:	Solio Lodge
Sophie Grant:	El Karama Lodge <i>"food is our passion"</i>

Laikipia Conservancies



Amboseli / Tsavo Parks and Camps

Amboseli National Park:

Angama: Angama Amboseli

Elewana: Tortilis Camp

Tawi: Tawi Lodge

Chyulu Hills National Park:

Chyulu Hills: Campi ya Kanzi (*electric vehicle*)

Great Plains: Ol Donyo Lodge

Tsavo National Park:

Hatton Family: Finch Hattons Camp



Samburu Region and Camps



Samburu National Reserve:

Douglas Hamilton: Elephant Watch Camp

Saruni Base Camp: Saruni Samburu,
Saruni Rhino

Safari Collection: Sasaab

Namunyak: Sarara Camp,
Reteti House,
Elephant Sanctuary

Meru National Park:

Elewana: Elsa's Kopje
Porini: Rhino River Camp

Best camps for children...

Kenya is a fantastic destination for children of all ages "never too young" to explore Africa. Great vacation and bonding experience for families, single parents and grandparents, to spend quality time with children and grandchildren.



*Angama
Cottar's 1920s Camp
El Karama Lodge
Emboo
Governor's Mugie
Kicheche
Lewa Wilderness
Offbeat Sosian
Safari Series
Sarara
Sirikoi*

All camps adore children. Most camps have many activities from making bows/arrows, beading, fire without matches, spoor print tracking, spear throwing, species identification. Educate about conservation and how it impacts wildlife. Some have riding stables, camels, pools, canoeing, tennis courts, along with game drives and walking safaris.





Safari Guides

My experience and affiliation with the camps, owners, managers and guides will be the key to your successful African safari trip. All guides are very knowledgeable and well trained. Each guides reputation precedes them. The ones I am recommending are held in the highest regard and part of KPSGA safari-guides.org.

Kicheche Guides

Charles Wandero
James Nampaso
Patrick Koriata
Benjamin Kaluena
David Nchoe
George Nampaso
Jimmy Tinka
Mika Kaleku
Bernard Soit
Lydia Seela
Stellah Kapano
Esther Sadera

Angama Mara

Sammy Komu
Fred Ole Sinoni
Kenneth Tanui
Alice Lendani
Wilson Naitoi
Ericson Lemaalo
John Githinji
Sophie Sadera
Geoffrey Njoroge
Robert Kimpai
Moses Kibet
John Peenko
Daniel Njiriri



Offbeat Guides

Stanley Nkoitoi
Joseph Leposo Njapit
David Yiampoi Njapit
Simon Kenyon
Ambrose Lochilia
Kapen

Bushtop Guides

Peter Carpenter *
Charles Mwaniki

* Gold Rated Guides



Elewana Guides

Samuel Brown
Joseph Chege *
Philip Ndungu *
Newton Kongo
Francis Mburugu
Ole Kirokor Sosio

Sirikoi Guides

Johnson Gilisho
Ngila Johnson

Sentinel Guides

Dominic Maitai

Asilia Guides

Dickson Nabaala
Roelof Schutte
Martin Kasaine
Evalyn Mayetu

Enaidura Guide

Tony Kamau
Paul Kirui*

Cottar's Guides

Calvin Cottar *
Douglas Nagi *
Josphat Mako
Enoch Sayagie

Private guides

Mark Boyd
Onesmus Irungu
Paul Kirui *
Tim Leperes
Jackson Looseiya
William Santian

For more information about Kenya
private guiding go to
africanprivateguidesnetwork.com



Kenya Coast

Last but not least is a trip to the beach. Kenya has some of the finest beaches on the African continent. The deep sea fishing and snorkeling are spectacular.



- Lamu:** Dhow House
Hotel Peponi
Jannah (Anna Trzebinski)
Manda Bay
- Malindi:** Driftwood Beach Club (Best golf in Kenya)
Vipingo Ridge
- Watamu:** Hemingways Resort
Kobe Suite Resort
- East African Retreats:** A collection of wonderful beach properties for rent

Go to sarassignaturesafaris.com for more details

Notes...



About Tanzania

The beauty of Tanzania is stunning, known for its vast unspoiled wilderness areas. More than twice the size of California, it is the largest country in East Africa. Has the highest mountain, Mt. Kilimanjaro 19,420 feet.

Hosts many of Africa's iconic destinations: Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Olduvai Gorge, Mt. Kilimanjaro, the Spice Islands of Zanzibar and Pemba plus a host of lesser known but equally beautiful parts, the Selous, the Ruaha, the Katavi and the Tarangire National Park.

Embarking on a Tanzanian Balloon Safari and witness the breathtaking beauty of the African savannah, tranquil waterfalls, and hope to encounter the Big Five. Relive the enchantment of nature's untamed beauty and create cherished memories that will forever linger in your soul.



Map of Tanzania





Tanzania

Endorsed by TATO

Tanzania Association of Tour Operators

Sara is a seasoned travel advisor who specializes in safaris and would like to promote Tanzania as being one of the world's best safari destinations. As a tourist destination, Tanzania has continued to receive visitors from all over the world.

It is a rich country which abounds with treasures awaiting to be discovered. Its vast Savanna “of the endless plain” Swahili word for “Serengeti” to the slopes and summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the Ngorongoro Crater “a world heritage site”, then onto the huge undiscovered southern and central national parks, (the Selous, Ruaha and Katavi). The magnificent chimps of Mahale, then onto the coast of pristine beaches of Zanzibar where the Swahili culture flourished.

One of the most special things about Tanzania is that it is home to the Hadzabe, one of the last remaining hunter-gatherer tribes on Earth.

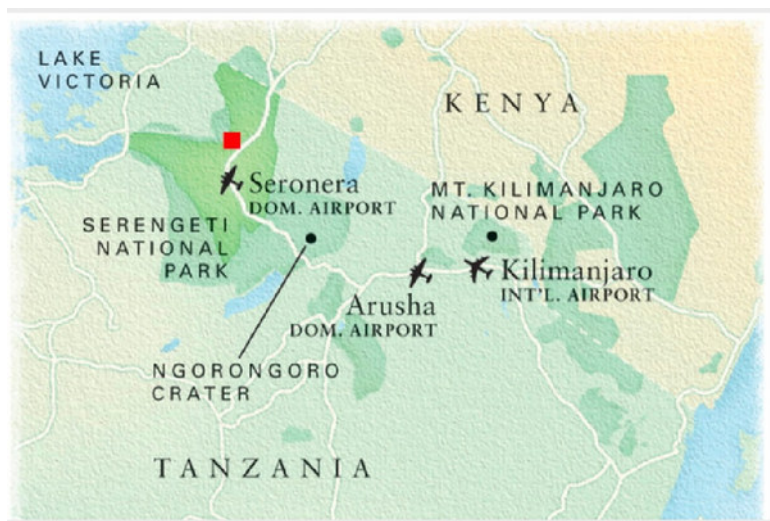


Her guidebook will help promote the beauty of Tanzania through her eyes. She has been visiting the country since 1991. She loves the welcome, the smiles and hospitality that we offer to one and all.

A peek into Sara's guide gives a perfect example of stories told from the traveler's eye. She highlights aspects such as mode of access to the destination, accommodation, cost, among other essentials while on a *safari*. In the guide, she unpacks some of the magical experiences while on her tour to several tourist attractions spread across the country.



Getting to Tanzania



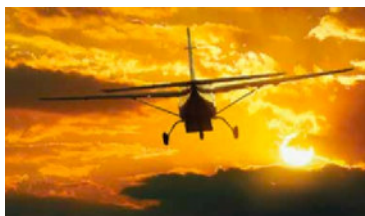
There are no direct flights from USA to Tanzania. However, **Kenya Airways (KQ)** has the only direct flight to Kenya from **JFK** (New York) saving lots of time then connect to **JRO** (Kilimanjaro Airport). Other options are **Emirates** via Dubai, **KLM** via Amsterdam, **Qatar** via Doha, **Swiss** via Zurich, or **Turkish** via Istanbul.

Once in **JRO** you need an overnight stay, then you fly from Arusha Airport on **Coastal**, **Precision**, **Auric**, **Safari Air Link**, private charter or drive to your safari camp.



Ultimate Private Air Charters

SkySafari by Elewana...
goes to some of my
favorite hotels and camps
flying in your own private
executive class 9 seater
Cessna Caravan over the
African Savannah.



Coastal Air...
the fleet consists of
Pilatus PC12s and
Cessna C208Bs. Their
extensive network
extends from its hubs in
Dar es Salaam, Arusha,
and Zanzibar connecting
passengers to a diverse
range of destinations.



Auric Air...

one of the largest operators
of Cessna Grand Caravans in
the world with over 200
aircraft. They provide flights
to customers for safari
adventures and access to
remote destinations.



Precision Air...

providing connections on
their Cessna fleet
visiting Serengeti
National Park,
Ngorongoro Crater, in
northern Tanzania, the
Zanzibar Island in the
Indian Ocean.

Arusha Hotels

Arusha Coffee Lodge (Elewana)

Located on one of Tanzania's largest coffee plantations, a perfect haven for relaxation. Fine dining and popular bar. Houses the "Shanga workshop" which employs people with disabilities to create unique and high-quality handmade jewelry, glassware and homeware. Perfect souvenirs.

Gran Melia Arusha

This spectacular hotel is located between the Serengeti and Kilimanjaro National Parks. An oasis of five-star comfort and elegance, with extensive facilities, suites, and international cuisine, including the outstanding The Grill restaurant. With spa, infinity pool and gym.

Legendary Lodge

Is located at the foothills of Mount Meru on the outskirts of Arusha. This is the gateway to the Northern Safari Circuit of Tanzania. A classic haven, the lodge boasts lush tropical gardens and a working coffee farm. Excellent dining.

Lemala Hamerkop House

This beautiful private house is located on a wildlife and golf estate, Kiligolf, situated halfway between Kilimanjaro International Airport and Arusha.

Rivertrees Country Inn

Looks out toward Mt Kilimanjaro, and is perfectly situated for exploring the abundant nature reserves that this region is home to. Fine dining with a stunning view.

Tanzanian Coast Hotels

Last but not least is a trip to the beach...

Dar es Salaam:

Crowne Plaza

Four Points by Sheraton

Hyatt Regency

Protea by Marriott

Ras Katani Beach Hotel



Mafia Island:

Pole Pole Hotel

Mnemba Island:

andBeyond

Pemba Island:

Manta Resort

Stonetown:

Emerson Spice

Upendo House

Zanzibar Coffee House

Zanzibar:

Baraza Resort

Breezes Beach Club

Hotel Kwanze

Hotel Monica

Neela Boutique

Pasha Hotel

Safira Blue

White Sands

Zuri Zanzibar



What to do in Tanzania



A Climb on Mount Mt. Kilimanjaro (*Richard Beatty*)

Arusha National Park (*walking and birdlife*)

Balloon Ride in Tanzania (*John Corse*)

Chicken on the Bonnet (*street food Arusha*)

Chimp Trekking Rubondo Island (*Lake Victoria*)

Cultural visit to Mto Wa Mbu (*local food*)

Gombe Stream (*Jane Goodall Camp Chimps*)

Great Migration (*Mobile Camps*)

Habituated Chimpanzees

Hadzabe (*Anita Warrener*)

Ngorongoro Crater

Ol Doinyo Lengai volcano climb

Olduvai Gorge (*Leakey Family / paleontologist*)

Stone Town – Birthplace Of Freddie Mercury

Visit Shanga Village (*Arusha Coffee Shop*)

Mount Kilimanjaro Climb

Mount Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa at 19,420 feet. It takes 5 to 9 days to reach the Summit and then descend to the finishing point. The more days spent on the mountain the more likely you will successfully summit, as you will become more acclimatised to the altitude and will be less fatigued.

Kilimanjaro is not a technical climb, and perfectly suitable for beginners with little or no experience, however you do need to be fit. Success depends on being prepared, which means not rushing the climb (*altitude sickness is not to be underestimated*).

Richard Beatty's African Environments is the best if you are looking to do a climb.

Suggested tipping per group/per day

Lead guide: \$20+

Assistant guide: \$15+

Porters: \$8+ (for each porter)

Cook: \$15+



Northern Tanzania Camps

Tarangire National Park

<i>Asilia:</i>	Oliver's Camp
<i>Lemala:</i>	Mpingo Ridge Camp
<i>Nomad:</i>	Kuro Camp
<i>Top Guides:</i>	Lolkisale

Between Tarangire / Manyara National Park

<i>Chem Chem:</i>	Chem Chem Lodge, Forest & Little Chem Chem
<i>Lake Eyasi:</i>	Ziwani Lodge (<i>Hadzabe</i>)

Ngorongoro Rim

<i>Asilia:</i>	The Highlands
<i>Lemala:</i>	Ngorongoro Tented Camp
<i>Nomad:</i>	Entamanu Camp
<i>Gibb's:</i>	Gibb's Farm

Conservation Area

<i>African Environments:</i>	Mysigio Camp
<i>Elewana:</i>	The Manor at Ngorongoro



Ngorongoro Crater



Serengeti Camps

Serengeti North

<i>Alex Walker:</i>	Serengeti Lamai
<i>Asilia:</i>	Sayari, Olakira
<i>Bushtops:</i>	Serengeti Bushtops
<i>Jim Roane:</i>	Tassa Lodge (<i>Walking</i>)
<i>Lemala:</i>	Kuria Hills
<i>Nomad:</i>	Kuro Camp, Mkombe House, Lamai
<i>Singita:</i>	Mara River Tented Camp

Serengeti North & South (Mobile Camps)

<i>Alex Walker:</i>	Serian's Serengeti Mobile Kusini
<i>Asilia:</i>	Ubuntu Migration Camp Olakira Migration Camp
<i>Bushtops:</i>	Roving Bushtops Serengeti
<i>Intimate Places:</i>	Camp Seronera Camp Zebra Mobile Camp
<i>Lemala:</i>	Ndutu Mobile Camps
<i>Nomad:</i>	Serengeti Safari Camp
<i>Top Guides:</i>	Osero (<i>Exclusive Use</i>)



The Great Migration Map



Serengeti Central & West

African Environments: Pembezoni Camp (Walking)

Asilia: Dunia, Namiri

Elewana: Migration, Pioneer Camps

Lemala: Nanyukie Lodge, Ewanjan Camp

Singita: Sasakwa, Faru Faru Lodge,
Sabora Tented &, Singita Explore

Southern Tanzanian Camps

Nyerere "formally Selous Game Reserve"

Asilia: Roho ya Selous

Foxes: Selous Rufiji River Camp

Nomad: Sand River Safari Camp & Kiba Point

Beho Beho Camp

Ruaha National Park

Asilia: Kwihala, Jabali Ridge,
Usangu Expedition Camp

Foxes: Ruaha River Lodge

Nomad: Kigelia Ruaha Camp

Western Tanzanian Camps

Gombe Stream National Park

Jane Goodall: In the Shadow of Man

Katavi National Park

Foxes: Wildlife Camp

Nomad: Chada Katavi Camp

Mahale National Park

Nomad: Greystoke Mahale Camp (*Chimps*)

Rubundo Island

Asilia: Rubundo Island Camp (*Chimps*)

Southern/Western Tanzania Map



Best Camps for Children

Tanzania is a fantastic destination for children of all ages "never too young" to explore Africa.

Great vacation and bonding experience for families, single parents and grandparents, to spend quality time with children and grandchildren.

Gibbs Farm
Lemala Nanyukie
Little Chem Chem
Nomad Mkombe House
Serengeti Bushtops
Singita Sasakwa
Tassa Lodge



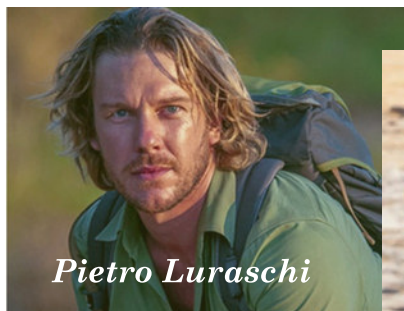
All camps adore children. Most camps have many activities from making bows/arrows, beading, fire without matches, spoor print tracking, spear throwing, and species identification. Educate about conservation and how it impacts wildlife. Some have riding stables, pools, canoeing, tennis courts, along with game drives and walking safaris.



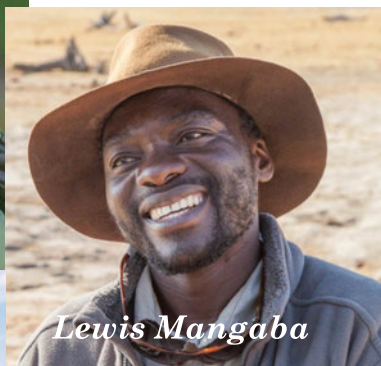
Safari Guides are the ❤️ of your safari !!

My experience and affiliation with the camps, owners and guides will be the key to your successful African Safari. All guides are very knowledgeable, well trained and held in the highest regard.

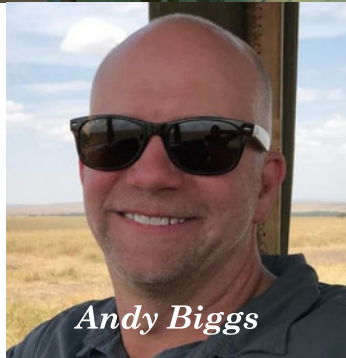
These private guides below are exceptional !!



Pietro Luraschi



Lewis Mangaba



Andy Biggs



Mark Boyd



Richard Beatty



The Land of Kilimanjaro & Zanzibar

Notes...



About Rwanda

Rwanda, officially the Republic of Rwanda, is a landlocked country in the Great Rift Valley of Central Africa, where the African Great Lakes region and Southeast Africa converge. Located a few degrees south of the Equator, Rwanda is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Its the most densely populated country on the continent of Africa. Despite its dense population, Rwanda is the cleanest country in Africa. No plastic bags here!

Community work day. Another reason Rwanda is so clean is thanks to Umuganda, a national holiday that takes place on the last Saturday of every month. From 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., people across the nation take part in community work to contribute to the overall national development. During Umuganda, business activity stops, and public transportation may be limited as everyone stops to contribute to their community in whatever way they can.

Know as **“The Land of a Thousand Hills”**
Characterized by its hilly and mountainous terrain, Rwanda got this nickname for good reason. Rwanda’s elevation spans between the Rusizi River at 950 m above sea level to the peak of Mount Karisimbi at 4,507 m above sea level.

Home to the endangered mountain gorillas. The Virunga Mountains that line the northern border of Rwanda are made up of eight major volcanoes. More than half of the population of remaining mountain gorillas live in these mountains. Thanks to conservation efforts, the mountain gorillas have increased in number in recent years.

About Rwanda



Rwanda has four official languages. Kinyarwanda (commonly known as Rwanda) is the national language of Rwanda. Before 1994, French was the language taught to children in schools. Following the Rwandan genocide, the government made the switch from French to English as the medium of education in schools. Kiswahili (commonly known as Swahili) is also taught as a subject in schools but is spoken by fewer than 1% of Rwandans.

Rwanda Endorsement...

Getting to Rwanda



There are no direct flights from USA to Rwanda. However, **Kenya Airways (KQ)** has the only direct flight to Kenya from **JFK** (New York) saving lots of time then connect to **Kenya Airways** for flight to Kigali.

Other options are **Rwandair** via Brussels / London, **Ethiopian** via Addis, **Qatar** via Doha, **Turkish** via Istanbul and **Brussels Air** via Brussels.

Once in **Kigali** (capital of Rwanda) you can overnight in the capital or head straight to camp via road (preferred) or those with deep pockets by private charter.

Kigali Hotels

Heaven (The Retreat)

Fit for a "King" home to The Retreat, Fusion and Heaven Restaurant and Heaven Boutique Hotel. Properties are on a peaceful road near Kigali City center, delicious African and International fusion cuisine, mid-range and luxury accommodation, full-service spa, saltwater pools, fitness center, yoga deck & retail boutique.

Hôtel des Milles Collines

During the Genocide against the Tutsi; Hôtel des Mille Collines was a refuge, surely the most famous hotel in Rwanda! It has breathtaking views over the hills of Kigali while indulging in culinary delights. The hotel has also for long been known to promote local artists as well as the Rwandan Culture and produce.

Kigali Marriott Hotel

Located near city center. Our impeccable 5 star luxury hotel provides spacious, modern accommodations with deluxe amenities (outdoor pool and full service spa) and premium services. A great stop for Bonvoy members.

Kigali Serena Hotel

Located in the heart of Kigali our hotel is a distinctively rich blend of Rwandan heritage, art and culture with contemporary 5-star comfort. Hotel provides a private and peaceful retreat like no other.

Radisson Blue

Located halfway between the airport and city center. Chic accommodation with excellent amenities (fitness center and outdoor pool). 2 on-site restaurants, including one with all-day dining, serve up continental and Rwandan favorites as well as the Super Breakfast Buffet.

What to do in Kigali

Genocide Memorial - A permanent National genocide memorial in remembrance of more than one million victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.



Inema Arts Center - Founded in 2012 by brothers and self-taught painters Emmanuel Nkuranga and Innocent Nkurunziza, the Inema Arts Centre's mission is to spur creativity for personal, social, and economic growth.

Ivuka Arts Center - was the first of the kind space in Rwanda which opened its doors to the public with a major objective of discovering and nurturing local artistic talent.



MADS - A gallery that exhibits and promotes the growth and visibility for emerging artists. It also creates opportunities of not only a platform of permanent exhibition space, but also help visual artists by mentoring to grow their talent and support them to make a living from their creativity by selling their art.

National Parks of Rwanda



Akagera National Park

Akagera:: Ruzizi Tented Camp

Wilderness: Magashi Camp

Nyungwe Forest National Park

One&Only: Nyungwe House (*Chimps*)

Volcanoes National Park

Locally Owned: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge

One&Only: Gorilla's Nest

Robert Twibaze: Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel

Singita: Kwitonda Lodge

Volcanoes Safaris: Virunga Lodge

*Wilderness &
Governors* Bisate Lodge
Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge

Gorilla Trekking

Gorilla trekking in Volcanoes National Park promises an unforgettable profound adventure, offering a rare and intimate encounter with these majestic creatures. The experience begins with a briefing (gorilla behavior, safety & expectations). Duration ranges from a couple of hours to a full day, depending on there location and your fitness level (uphill sections may be quite steep and strenuous).

Once you locate the gorilla, the encounter is magical, observing their social interactions, nurturing behaviors, and sheer presence is awe-inspiring. You'll have a precious **hour** to observe and photograph the gorillas.



You need comfortable shoes/boots (conditions are very muddy when raining). Wear a long sleeve cotton shirt and lightweight long trousers (to protect you from undergrowth and bugs). Bring water, bug spay, wet wipes, camera/lenses, gardening gloves, hat, rain jacket & binoculars.

Gorilla Permits cost US **\$1,500 per person per day**. The minimum age limit to track gorillas is **15 years old**.

Tipping: Bring \$70 pp to cover tipping and porter.

Guide, tracker and security \$30 pp.

To hire a porter is \$20 pp and suggested tipping is \$20 pp.

Dian Fossey's work to study and protect the lives of the gorillas in Rwanda touched the hearts of people around the world. Her focus, courage and passion have inspired conservationists who have followed since. Her legacy lives on today, in the gorilla protection, science, education and people programs of the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.



Chimpanzee Trekking

Chimpanzee trekking in Nyungwe forest national park should not be overlooked. It gives you opportunity to view chimpanzees in their natural habitats, see their daily activities and observe how socially the chimpanzees are. You will be able to identify who leads group, how babies are cared for in the chimp world and how big the group is.

Two groups of Chimpanzees are habituated in Nyungwe national park and one is found around Uwinka and other big group is found at Cyamudongo a fragmented forest.

Chimpanzee trekking in Nyungwe's Cyamudongo forest depends on how the group is behaving (if they are on the move, you will be running behind them).

The park elevation varies between 1600m-2950m above the sea level and fitness is needed. For the elderly people there is a way for them and they trek slowly.

Dr. Jane Goodall, worlds leading expert in chimpanzees, went into the forest to study the remarkable lives of chimpanzees and she came out of the forest to save them. When she discovered that the survival of their species was threatened by habitat destruction and illegal trafficking, she developed a breakthrough approach to species conservation. In 1977, she founded the Jane Goodall Institute to ensure that her vision and life's work continue to save the natural world we all share.



Chimpanzee Permits - cost
\$150 for International Visitors.

Apart from the permit,
International visitors have to
pay \$100 as park entrance.

Tipping: Customary tipping for
the each trekker is \$5-\$10 pp.

Notes...



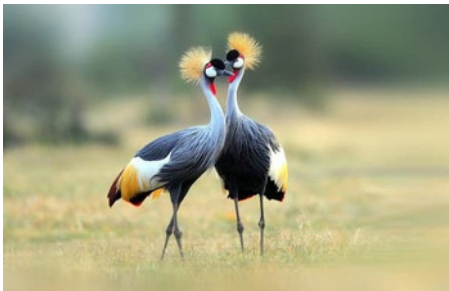
About Uganda

The Pearl of Africa', Uganda, shines right in the heart of Africa. A tiny land-landlocked country, has the largest freshwater lake in Africa; 12% of the world's bird species; and excellent safari viewing with not just the Big Five, but gorillas and chimpanzees as additional and unique highlights.

Lush and verdant, with captivating wildlife experiences to be had throughout its diverse landscapes of rainforest, savannah, swamps, rivers and volcanic mountain ranges.

The people are famed as warm and welcoming and the local food and city culture is worth making the time to experience. In 1908 Winston Churchill described Uganda as "a fairy tale. The scenery is different, the vegetation is different, the climate is different and the people are different."

Uganda is home to the mountain gorillas and chimpanzees, Lake Victoria: second largest lake in the world UNESCO World Heritage Site and the big five, Snow-capped peaks of Rwenzori Mountains Over 10% of the world's bird species live in Uganda. "Jinja" is the source of the White Nile.



Uganda Map



Uganda Endorsement...

Getting to Uganda

There are no direct flights from USA to Uganda. However, **Kenya Airways (KQ)** has the only direct flight to Kenya from **JFK** (New York) saving lots of time then connect to **Kenya Airways** for flight to **Entebbe**.

Other options are **Rwandair** via Brussels / London, **Ethiopian** via Addis, **Qatar** via Doha, **Turkish** via Istanbul and **Brussels Air** via Brussels.

Once in **Entebbe** you can overnight or head straight to camp via road (preferred) roads or those with deep pockets by private charter



Entebbe Hotels

Protea Hotel - This luxurious 4 star resort hotel is ideally located on the shores of Lake Victoria and a convenient 1km from the Entebbe airport. The outside terrace, with its own special ambiance and superb lake views is the perfect place to take it all in.

Lake Victoria Hotel - First hotel built on Lake Victoria in 1963 (*I stayed when it first opened*) has an outdoor pool and sun terrace. Free shuttle service and shops at the property. Airport is located 3.1 km away.



Kampala Hotels

Latitude 0° Kampala - Chic, social, stylish and surprising modern oasis in the busy capital of Kampala. Located 45 mins from Entebbe Airport.

Sheraton Kampala Hotel - 5 star hotel is ideally situated in Kampala, 45 minutes from Entebbe Airport, and less than 10 minutes away from the central business district. Known for its heritage and spectacular nightlife.

Kampala Serena Hotel - The hotel is an oasis of cool and green, with a secure environment ideally located in the heart of Kampala. Surrounded by 17 acres of beautifully manicured water gardens. Located 45 mins from Entebbe Airport.

What to do in Uganda

Explore **Kampala** (capital)

Have fun on **Lake Victoria**

Jinja is where the **White Nile** flows out of Lake Victoria. The River Nile is the longest river in the world (over 4000 miles) and runs all the way from Uganda at its most southern end to the Mediterranean sea in the north.

Visit Ngamba Island **Chimpanzee Sanctuary**

Visit the **Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary**

Murchison Falls is home to the largest population of **Rothschild's giraffes**

Kazinga Channel boat trip

Queen Elizabeth National Park excellent for birding. Home to over 618 species.

Zip Line in Mabira Forest Reserve "it's dubbed the Mabira Forest Canopy Super Skyway"

Kibale Forest for **chimpanzee trekking**

Bwindi National Park for **gorilla trekking** (see the Batwa people)



This can be you at the Uganda Equator

Uganda Lodges / Camps

Bwindi Inpenetrable Forest National Park:

"Bwindi" meaning dark. Home to the endangered mountain gorilla and more than 200 butterfly species.



Gorilla Safari Lodge
Clouds Mountain Gorilla Camp
4 Gorilla Lodge (habituation)
Sanctuary Gorilla Forest Camp
Buhoma Lodge
Bwindi Lodge
Nkuringo Bwindi Gorilla Lodge

Kibale National Park: Known as the primate capital of the world. Home to over 1500 chimpanzees and 372 bird species.

Crater Safari Lodge
Kibale Forest Camp
Primate Lodge



Kidepo National Park: Is the most isolated national park "as remote as you can get". Birders paradise with over 470 bird species.



Apoka Safari Lodge

Lake Mburo National Park: Smallest savannah national park. Conveniently situated between the capital and the 5 national parks.

Muhingo Lodge



Murchison Falls National Park: Uganda's oldest safari park. Has the world's most powerful waterfall.

Paraa Safari Lodge

Queen Elizabeth National Park: Best loved Uganda safari park. Has tree climbing lions, over 618 bird species and the Kazinga Channel.

Ishasha Wilderness Camp

Mweya Safari Lodge



Chimpanzee Tracking

The most favorite activity in the park is the **Chimpanzee tracking in Kibale National Park.**

You start at the visitor center and lasts 2-3 hours (morning or afternoon).

Permits cost \$150 pp.

In Uganda the chimp tracking activity is eligible for persons that are *15 years of age and above.*

Chimpanzees live in communities and these have about 150 chimpanzees. During day, the chimpanzees separate into small groups in order to ease the process of finding food. They later combine at night and form their nests to spend the night.

Each chimpanzee group is trekked by 6 individuals in the morning and in the afternoon.

Customary *tipping* for the each trekker is \$10 pp.



Gorilla Trekking



Gorilla Trekking in Uganda is a must!!

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park has 17 gorilla groups making it the best place or park where you can see the gorillas in the wild. The minimum age limit to track gorillas is *15 years old*.

The experience begins with a briefing (gorilla behavior, safety & expectations). Duration ranges from a couple of hours to a full day, depending on there location and your fitness level (uphill sections may be quite steep and strenuous). Once you locate the gorilla, the encounter is magical, their sheer presence is awe-inspiring. You'll have a precious *hour* to observe and photograph.

Gorilla Permits cost \$800 per person per day.

Gorilla habituation is the training of wild gorillas to get used to humankind. *The permit costs \$1,500 per person per day*. Gorillas are trained by researchers and park rangers for a period of 3 years. It's during the training that that you can join the group of researchers and park rangers. Only 4 visitors are allowed. This makes it special. The most exciting reality about this experience is that you actively engage in the **gorilla habituation!**

Tipping: Bring about \$70 pp to cover tipping and porter. Guide, Tracker and Security \$30 pp. To hire a porter is \$20 pp and suggested tipping is \$20 pp.

Awesome Things About Uganda

A Generous and Welcoming People

Over 50 Tribes With Different Culture Live here

Highest Density of Primates Worldwide

Uganda is The Most Affordable Safari Destination

Uganda Has Relatively Low Tourist Numbers

It Has Massive Wildlife Reserves

Tourism significantly contributes to community

Uganda is a Bird Heaven; 1066 Bird Species

Lions Climb Trees in Uganda

Network Connectivity Across The Country



Notes...





Recommended Reading

Kenya...

Earnest Hemingway *"Green Hills of Africa"*

Daphne Sheldrick *"Love, Life and Elephants"*

Joy Adamson *"Born Free"*

Beryl Markham *"West with the Night"*

Isak Dinesen *"Out of Africa"*

Tanzania...

Ernest Hemingways *"The Snows of Kilimanjaro"*

Paul Theroux *"Dark Star Safari"*

Tepilit Ole Saitoti *"The Worlds of a Maasai Warrior"*

Abdulrazak Gurnah *"Paradise"*

Jane Goodall *"In the Shadow of Man"*

Peter Matthiessen *"The Tree Where Man Was Born"*

Rwanda...

Stephen Kinzer *"A Thousand Hills"*

Dian Fossey *"Gorillas in the Mist"*

Uganda...

Thor Hanson *"The Impenetrable Forest"*

Alan Moorehead *"The White Nile"*

Giles Foden *"The Last King of Scotland"*

All Countries...

Peter C. Alden & Richard D. Estes
*"National Audubon Society Field Guide
to African Wildlife"*

Richard D. Estes *"The Safari Companion"*

Jane Goodall *"The Book of Hope" and "Chimps"*





Photo Tips...

“If you’ve bought a new camera or lens, practice before you go. You won’t have time to read the manual when there’s a lion a few feet away.”

“For amateur photographers looking for a no-fuss camera, the Nikon Coolpix P900 has a staggering 83X optical zoom. It’ll take great photos in multiple situations. Don’t discount your iPhone!!! ”

“Be sure to bring spare batteries; using the vibration reduction tool to minimize the blur caused by a shaky camera eats up power.”

“If you plan on printing out your photos, be sure your camera is set to take the highest quality image – in most cases that’s either raw or .jpeg large.”

“Obey the rule of thirds. Don’t center your point of interest in the frame, be it an animal, person, mountain, or something else. This simple composition technique makes a huge difference.”

“Don’t just take close-up animal photos. Zoom in and out, show where the animal is amongst the landscape, shoot in both landscape and portrait.”

“If you’re serious about taking wildlife photos, consider renting a private game vehicle.”

“You’re on vacation, don’t pressure yourself into trying to capture a National Geographic-caliber photo. Tell a story: your trip isn’t just animals, it’s about family, lodging, its staff, the food, and the entire journey.”

Let's Learn Swahili



Coffee...	<i>Kahawa</i>
Enjoy your safari...	<i>Safari njema</i>
Good afternoon...	<i>Habari</i>
Good morning...	<i>Habari</i>
Good night...	<i>Lala Salama</i>
Good-bye...	<i>Kwaheri</i>
Hello...	<i>Jambo</i>
Hi there...	<i>Habari</i>
Hot water...	<i>Maji Moto</i>
How are you...	<i>Habari yako</i>
No worries...	<i>Hakuna matata</i>
No, thank you...	<i>Hapana</i>
Okay...	<i>Sawa Sawa</i>
People...	<i>Watu</i>
Please...	<i>Tafadhali</i>
Slow down...	<i>Pole Pole</i>
Tea...	<i>Chai</i>
Thank you...	<i>Asante Sana</i>
Water...	<i>Maji</i>
Welcome...	<i>Karibu</i>
Yes please...	<i>Ndiyo</i>

Currencies in East Africa...

Kenyan Shilling
Rwandan Franc
Tanzanian Shilling
Ugandan Shilling

East Africa Climate...

Equatorial for all countries
Short rains end of October to early November
Long rains end of March to mid May

Passport requirements...

For all countries you will need a valid passport with **six months validity**. You must have a minimum of **TWO blank pages** in your passport.

East Africa Visa Info...

An East African tourist e-visa is required and allows entry to Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda \$100 fee.

Traveler must enter the region from the country that issued the visa and move within the two other countries. Fee is \$100 and processing time is 7 days.

Kenya requires an electronic travel authorization. Visitors must apply via www.etakenya.go.ke and pay a **fee of \$30**. It is recommended to apply at least 3 days prior to travel to Kenya.

Health requirements...

Malarone should be taken 2 days before getting to coast and 7 days after you leave. Yellow fever is required only if coming from infected area.

Words of Wisdom...



A Knowledgeable Agent

Great Destination

Excellent Guide and Tracker

Tented Camp and / or Lodge

Open Safari Vehicle

Good Food

Comfy Bed

**All these ingredients make for an
excellent safari experience...**

"Safari Njema"

Conservation is close to my ♥

One of the most dramatic issues facing the African continent is climate change. Wildlife in many protected areas is under threat from forest depletion, human encroachment, poaching for commercial/subsistence purposes, habitat degradation, loss of migration, dispersal areas, and ever increasing human-wildlife conflicts. All camps focus on sustainability and conservation programs. The following are some well known organizations that you can get involved in protecting our beloved Africa.

African Wildlife Foundation (East Africa)

World Wildlife Fund (East Africa)

Great Plains Conservation (Kenya)

Kenya Wildlife Trust (Kenya)

Kicheche Community Trust (Kenya)

Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (Kenya)

Mara Elephant Program (Kenya)

Northern Rangelands Trust (Kenya)

Porini Wildlife Habitat Trust (Kenya)

Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage (Kenya)

The Maa Trust (Kenya)

The Land & Life Foundation (Kenya/Tanzania)

Chem Chem Association (Tanzania)

Wildlife Conservation Society (Rwanda/Uganda)

Africa Parks (Rwanda)

Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Association (Rwanda)

It's time to get involved...



Book with confidence



For more information regarding
Sara's Signature Safaris contact:

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Sara de Maine Kearns, owner

sara@sarassignaturesafaris.com

1-845-926-4774 - office

+1-917-346-8683 - mobile/Whatsapp

sarassignaturesafaris.com



come travel with a legend.....



Sara de Maine Kearns