

**SOUTHERN SKY
ADVENTURES**
AFRICA...IN YOUR WILDEST DREAMS.

STUDENT TRIP KENYA

14 Days | 13 Nights

Nairobi | Laikipia | Ol Pejeta Conservancy | Lake Nakuru National Park



NAIROBI



Situated in along the Nairobi River in beautiful Kenya, the capital of Nairobi is East Africa's most cosmopolitan city. It serves as an excellent starting point for African safari trips around Kenya. Nairobi is Africa's 4th largest city and is a vibrant and exciting place, and although it has developed a reputation which keeps tourist visits brief, there are some fascinating attractions: its cafe culture, unbridled nightlife, the National Museum, the Karen Blixen Museum and most notably just 20 minutes from the city centre wild lions and buffalo roam in the world's only urban game reserve. Make sure you pay a visit to the elephant orphanage operated by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.

LAIKIPIA

Sandwiched between Mount Kenya and the northern deserts, Laikipia is where Kenya's wild and semi-arid northern frontier country begins. The region is made up of privately owned and community ranches centered around the Laikipia National Reserve.

Known as one of Kenya's best safari areas, the high plains of Laikipia feature vast open stretches of African savanna scattered with abundant game including: Grevy's zebras, black rhino, lion, leopard, wild dogs, buffalo and thousands of elephants. Visitors can enjoy a luxury safari experience at a private lodge or stay in the worthwhile community-run lodges which support the local Samburu and Laikipiak and Mokogodo Maasai communities.





OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

Resting at the foothills of Mount Kenya and the Aberdare Mountain Range, in central Kenya's Laikipia County, the Ol Pejeta Conservancy is the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa. It is also home to the last three remaining northern white rhino in the world. Originally a working cattle ranch in colonial Kenya and now a pioneering wildlife conservancy, Ol Pejeta works to protect wildlife and provide a sanctuary for rescued chimpanzees.

The Conservancy is a popular safari destination and is home to the renowned 'Big Five' as well as a wide selection of other African animals including: zebra, giraffe, hippo, cheetah, jackal, serval, hyena, vervet monkey and many more. Visitors can enjoy an assortment of outdoor activities such as horse rides, game walks, and nocturnal game drives.



LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

Located in the Great Rift Valley surrounded by yellow acacia woodlands and bushy shrublands, the Lake Nakuru National Park was created to protect the Lake and its large flocks of Lesser Flamingo, which are drawn to the algae that flourish in the saline waters of this soda lake.

The national park is inhabited by over 50 mammal species including hippo, black and white rhino, Rothschild giraffe, buffalo and eland. Known as a bird watcher's paradise, the park is home to over 450 bird species. Visitors can look forward to hiking through the scenic landscape, picnicking next to this magnificent lake, and spotting an array of wildlife on a game drive. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the beautiful Makalia Waterfall.





- A Wildebeest Echo Camp
 - B One Horizon Kenya
 - C El Karama Echo Lodge
 - D The Stable Ol Pejeta Conservancy
 - E Kembu Cottages
-

DAY 1 : NAIROBI

Upon evening arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), you will be welcomed and transferred in an 18 seater bus to Wildebeest Eco Camp (a 30-minute journey) for the night. After freshening up and settling in, a traditional Kenyan dinner will be served followed by a relaxed evening of getting to know one another. Your group leaders will use this time to also welcome, brief and orientate you. Board games available from the bar if games are the order of play or just relax and share some stories around the fire.



DAY 2 : NAIROBI

After a good night sleep and breakfast, depart from Wildebeest Eco Camp for the One Horizon Community Center where you will spend the whole day and night with the girls.

One Horizon is a humanitarian aid organization with over 20 center's in Kenya which include rescue center's for abused and abandoned street children (boys & girls), retraining and rehabilitation center's for abused women, a variety of crèches and schools in slum communities ranging from 30 to 300 students, sporting center's (principally soccer clubs) where they implement the outreach programs, orphanages where children are domiciled and aged care center's for abandoned older citizens.

Within the centers they undertake a variety of projects in relation to working to overcome poverty and these include nutrition and health programs, clean water and sanitation programs, education programs for school children that follow the Kenyan Education System (all their schools are accredited with the government), vocational re-training programs for women, small business programs (chicken farming, seamstress programs and jewelry and artifact programs, providing libraries and education programs on health and cleanliness for the children in the community.



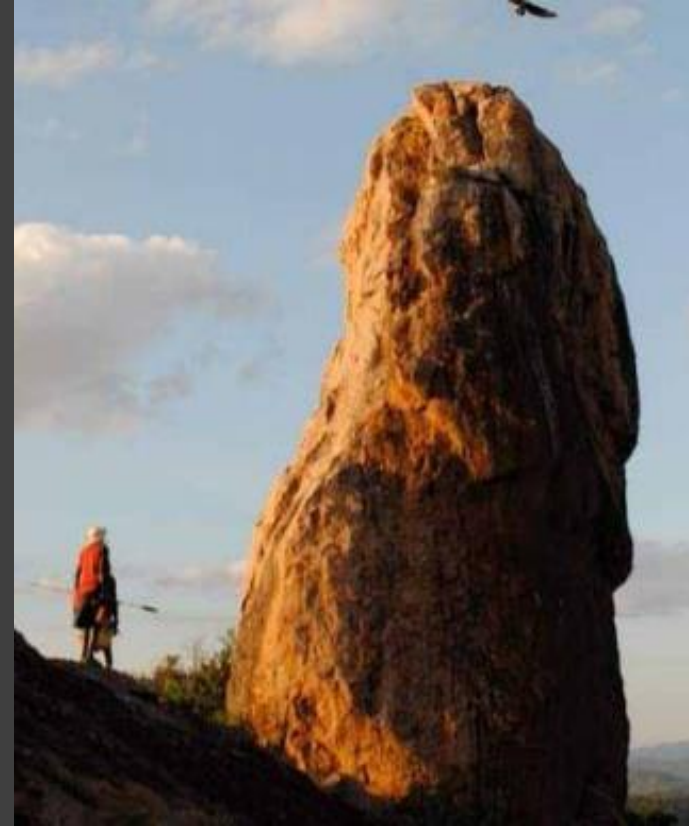


DAY 3 : LAIKIPIA

Today you will depart for El Karama by road (5 hours' scenic drive). There will be a brief stopover in the farming town of Nanyuki and a visit to the vibrant local market (a Shukka will be presented to each participant by a community member) before proceeding to the lodge in time for lunch. Each day has been designed with super activities to learn, accomplish and experience. On the first afternoon, you will experience your first game drive to see wildlife living in the wild, as you should!!!, then stop for an evening sundowner at a scenic point to enjoy your first true African sunset. We will give a talk on the extensive research on the resident wild dogs arranged by El Karama, which we hope you will see for yourselves.

DAY 4 : LAIKIPIA

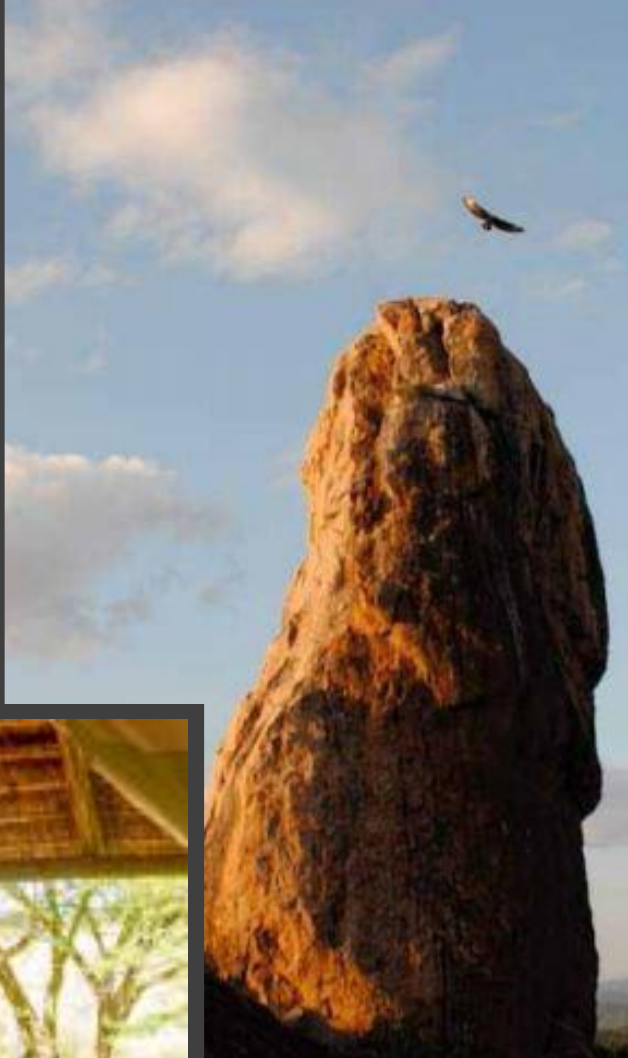
This day will be all about wildlife and nature. We will show you the wildlife that roam free, please study its behavior and patterns. Feel free to start ticking off your bird and mammal sightings on the checklists provided. A game/bird walk will include a wildlife tracking exercise (such as spoor casting) and a game drive will include a camera trap session with a review of the images captured being discussed. Impromptu discussions will follow after game encounters/sightings and may also include game drives to investigate wildlife activity near camp (Lions roaring, alarm calls etc). The evening will be set aside to learn about "the environmental impact of tourism". Enjoy evening discussion topics such as environmental impact & eco tourism. Sophie (the owner plus a Cambridge graduate (MA Honors) and Bronze level Kenya Professional Guide) will do a question and answer session about eco-tourism in Kenya. For the few lucky ones who were paying attention, a gift awaits!!!



DAY 5 : LAIKIPIA

We will make our way to nearby Ngare Ndere Forest which offers a complete contrast to what you have been experiencing so far. The forest is reached by vehicle. On arrival at the forest, you will be met by a ranger who will guide you along a track to a glorious natural pool filled by a waterfall. Guests can bathe and the daring can leap from the top of the waterfall! After a bracing swim you will be driven through the forest to the elevated canopy walkway. 80 feet high, this wood and wire suspension bridge extends for about 400m through the forest tree canopy. The walkway ends at a wooden deck 30ft high, where you will be able to relax and enjoy a view of the river from this elevated vantage point. Elephants and buffalo frequently come here to drink and wallow. Guests can relax after the exertions of the morning, before returning back to El Karama Lodge for an overnight. Upon return to the lodge, the group will be split and one group will head off for a simple but great fun fly camping night under the stars (including a short lecture on stars and constellations); sleeping on roll mats in lovely warm bedding by an open trickle fire ... with an askari/guide to watch over the group.





DAY 6 : LAIKIPIA

Today is all about hiking...about 30km north and shrouded in Samburu folklore, is the massive mesa of Ol Lolokwe. A tough, but rewarding day hike (five hours to summit) and, at sunset, light radiating off its rusty bluffs is seen for miles around. The mountain is renowned for its raptors and has Kenya's highest population of Ruppell's vultures. A sight to behold! It's now managed by the Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust, a locally run, community based conservation effort. The group that did not do the fly camping the previous day will have an opportunity to do so this evening, while the other group enjoys the evening back at camp.



DAY 7 : OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

(Giving back to conservation – the Chimpanzee Sanctuary)

After breakfast, you will be transferred by road to the nearby Ol Pejeta Conservancy and check into The Stables accommodation. While in Ol Pejeta, you will be taken through conservation activities including visiting the Chimpanzee sanctuary, the Morani information center (and see the extremely rare Northern White Rhino!!!!). At the Chimpanzee Sanctuary, students help with fence inspection. They learn that chimpanzees use dry wood to escape through the electric fence, and so they are also tasked with collecting any wood they find on the way. Time to settle in be orientated with the lay of the land, the conservancy etc.





DAY 8 : OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

We have an array of activities lined up and today you will focus on Endangered Species Enclosure.... Since 2009, Ol Pejeta Conservancy has been home to some of the world's last remaining northern white rhinos. There are now only 3 left in the world. Guests have a once in a lifetime opportunity to come face to face with the animals and hear their amazing story.

The 700-acre endangered species enclosure also protects small populations of Grevy's zebra and the Jackson's hartebeest. In the Endangered Species Enclosure, young learners help with the daily care e.g. enclosure cleaning of the northern white rhinos. In doing so, you will learn about the plight of the northern whites, and what is being done to save this subspecies.



DAY 9 : OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

Guests will have a unique opportunity to learn about and track the lions of Ol Pejeta Conservancy and contribute towards conservation efforts. It is a great way to learn about lions and all of the information gathered is passed on to the Ol Pejeta Ecological Monitoring Department. Guests will remain in the vehicle at all times. A night game drive offers guests an opportunity to discover Ol Pejeta Conservancy 'after hours'. With the help of a spotlight, the drives can produce some unusual sightings of nocturnal animals.



DAY 10 : LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

Depart in the morning after breakfast for a 5 hours' scenic drive to arrive at Kemu Cottages on the outskirts of Nakuru ... and settle in. Guide and friend Andreas Fox will bid goodbye and hand over to renowned expert guide Andrew Nightingale. You will cook your own food here, relax in the beautiful trees and grassy highlands and have a general look around the Great Rift Valley. As you enjoy your meal, you will get a briefing on your stay here and a talk about what you are going to experience and about Andrew Nightingale himself.





DAY 11 : LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

This day, you will drive to Mt Kiplombey. You will hike over Mt Kiplombey (a mountain on the western side of the rift valley) that used to be covered in forest and streams but due to a massive population explosion etc., it had disappeared A great way to teach people why you need to 'conserve'. That night you will sleep in the pine forest, very beautiful and the buffer for the 'real' Mau Forest.





DAY 12 : LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

This morning we head out into the 'real' forest, sleeping up in the trees (in hanging tree beds) and learning more about the pure, natural forest, forest protection & community use of the forest, learn about survival and living off the land.... Also learn about honey hunting and the very little known forest tribes i.e. the Okiek.





DAY 13 : LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

Return on foot to Kembu for the last night. Feeling exhausted by now, enjoy a relaxing hot bath and another lovely night in the green grasslands. At Kembu you will have chance to experience rural lifestyle and learn about the successful woman's group/ community project called Kenana Knitters. This excursion will be planned according to the groups arrival time etc. following their hike back. Dinner will be traditional Nyama Choma and Ugali.



After an early breakfast, depart by road to Nairobi (5 hours' scenic drive). On arrival in Nairobi, proceed for lunch that has been arranged at Dari Restaurant (20 mins) where you will be able to sample their tasty Kenyan cuisine while wildlife wonder around. This will be followed by a wonderful visit to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust for a private visit of the orphaned elephants from 15H00 - 16H00. You will then go and visit the Giraffe Centre (20 mins drive), where the students can feed the giraffe and learn about these mighty creatures. After this day packed full of amazing experiences and a farewell dinner in Nairobi, you will head back to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for your outbound late night flight. Safe travels!

DAY 14 : END OF ITINERARY