



## segera | helicopter excursions

Segera is located in the heart of the Laikipia Highlands. Its surrounding diverse landscapes, incredible views, easy access to the Aberdare Mountain Range, majestic Mount Kenya, the Rift Valley, Lake Turkana and Kenya's other incredible lakes make Segera the perfect base for helicopter excursions. Together with our partner Tropic Air, we offer guests the opportunity to discover and experience the various regions and highlights of Magical Kenya – an unforgettable experience.

Tropic Air's Eurocopter AS 350 B3s are perfectly adapted to fly in East Africa's hot and high environments, and guests will enjoy the company of professional private helicopter pilot guides. These aircraft are fitted with satellite tracking software, pilots are trained in 'first person on scene' first aid, and all possible precautions are carried out to ensure guests' maximum safety and comfort.

Through their environmentally conscious approach, Tropic Air has built-in a Carbon Footprint Offset contribution for all their tourism flights by donating to Segera's Tree of Life Forests initiative.





## SAMBURU & MATHEWS RANGE

Samburu lies in northern Kenya and stretches from Laikipia and the Ewaso Nyiro River up to the southern end of Lake Turkana. Within this vast area lies Samburu National Reserve - one of Kenya's most visited tourist destinations. A diverse and beautiful wilderness of 21,000 km<sup>2</sup>, famed for its rich wildlife, savannah landscape and culture.

The Samburu region of Northern Kenya is made up of a mosaic of grassland, savannah and forest. The endless landscapes are scenically spectacular, rich in wildlife and with extraordinary cultural diversity. This is home to Samburu and Rendille nomadic people, whom lead traditional lives and cherish the customs of their ancestors.

Known as a 'sky island', the 150km long Mathew's Range rises up from dry desolate country exposing lush forested hills and craggy peaks. Natural springs and rivers flow through its valleys, which hide sacred Samburu feasting and dancing sites. Amongst ancient cycads, with a bird's eye view of the endless plains and wide skies, guests land for a picnic breakfast.

From the Mathews Range you fly southeast, over contrasting landscapes, quietly spotting wildlife, and on to Ol Loloowe. Ol loloowe is Northern Kenya's most striking landmark - it is visible from miles away, abruptly rising 1,000 meters above the plains. The sheer rock face and flat top makes this mountain incredibly distinctive and its summit features a high-altitude misty forest with giant cycads and unusual birdlife, including Kenya's largest nesting colony of Ruppell's vultures. Guests can land, again to take in the vast panoramas and explore the fascinating life up there.





## **MOUNT KENYA, AFRICA'S SECOND HIGHEST MOUNTAIN (AFTER MOUNT KILIMANJARO)**

An ancient extinct volcano standing over 5,000 meters tall, in the heart of Kenya, with rugged peaks, glacial valleys and forested slopes.

Iconic in shape and size, Mount Kenya is situated in the heart of Kenya, on the equator, and its highest peak 'Batian' stands at 5,199 meters. The snowy peaks can be seen on clear days from as far as Mt Kilimanjaro some 300km away. The vast and desolate nature of Mount Kenya with its towering summit, sheer cliffs and glaciers become apparent as the helicopter circles above the peaks of Batian and Nelion.

Many tarns and rivers are found on the upper slopes of the mountain. Lake Michelson is one of our favourite spots and a place that few people have ever visited. Here guests can land on the shore for a picnic breakfast surrounded by beautiful views and unique mountain flora.

Mount Kenya has a great diversity of geographical features, vegetation zones and climate bands, which become apparent as we descend 3,000 meters from the peaks to the foothills in just 35 km. There is no better way to appreciate this contrast than by a helicopter. From heathland, mountain bamboo, luxuriant evergreen forest, and finally the stunning savannah plains of Northern Kenya – this is the epitome of what Africa is all about.



## LAKES

About 40 million years ago, Kenya's Great Rift Valley was formed. In the hollows of this Rift Valley, some of the oldest, largest and deepest lakes in the world now lie. Kenya's lakes - both fresh water and alkaline - sustain an astonishing diversity of life. On the western side of the country, located just 30km apart, lie Lake Baringo and Lake Bogoria - both scenically spectacular, but each very different from one another.

Lake Bogoria - a shallow alkaline lake most famous for the flamingos that line its white salty shores. With its unique features, stunning views and amazing birdlife, Lake Bogoria was gazetted as a National Park in 1973. Bogoria's shores are also home to rare Greater Kudu, buffalo, zebra and smaller plains game.

With their bright feathers and up-side down bills, flamingos are among the most easily recognized water birds. Amazingly, it's the blue-green algae and crustaceans on which they feed which gives them their gorgeous pink color. Migratory by nature, tens of thousands of flamingos can live together in a single colony, and they often put on a graceful display of formation flying.

200 geysers and hot springs are dotted along the shoreline of Lake Bogoria, making it a geologist's paradise with its simmering geothermal activity and thrilling eruptions.

Lake Baringo - spectacular sunsets, a dazzling array of bird life and the Njemp fishermen continuing a traditional lifestyle little-changed in over 200 years.

Enormous basalt cliffs and extensive volcanic ranges are testimony to Baringo's origins. The reward is this truly beautiful fresh-water lake, a critical habitat for nearly 500 bird species and home to both hippo and crocodile.



## SUGUTA VALLEY

The Suguta Valley is in many ways the last great frontier. Few have visited this part of the Great Rift - it's inaccessible, constantly changing and can be almost unimaginably hot. This is about as far off the beaten track as you can get, and makes for a particularly rewarding helicopter excursion.

Located directly south of Lake Turkana at an altitude of just 1 000ft (300m) above sea level, this is one of the places where man began, and a land of extraordinary contrasts. From the vast caldera of the Silale Crater, carpeted with grasses and shrubs, we continue to the Suguta itself. The valley is characterised by a flood pan dominated by green algae, seasonal streams and dramatic rock formations. Long an area of fascination for geologists, the ancient sediments and fossil remains have enabled them to piece together the complex history of a lake which has risen and fallen multiple times over the last 18 000 years.

Highlights of this helicopter excursion include the weathered rock formations and contrasting shades of the Hoodoe and Painted Valleys, and the sand dunes of the Suguta Desert. The true emeralds in the dust however are Lakes Logipi and Turkana. Logipi is a seasonal saline lake that provides a crucial breeding ground for vast flocks of lesser flamingo, while Lake Turkana – the Jade Sea – exerts a magnetic attraction over artists and scientists alike. The world's largest permanent desert lake, Turkana is wild and untamed in character with its sun-bleached volcanic beaches, granite outcrops and petrified lava flows. The lakeshore has revealed some of the world's most ancient fossil finds, from dinosaurs to early hominids, and its stark, uncompromising landscapes have inspired photographers such as Peter Beard, and even Hollywood filmmakers (the climactic scenes of 'The Constant Gardener' were shot by the lake).