

Walking Safari Information



Unlike a vehicle-based safari, a walking safari allows the traveller to enjoy an intimate insight into Kenya's animals and its people. It is a peaceful way of traveling through the landscape.

Our mobile safaris are walking safaris supported fully by camels and they are used to move the entire camp to a new location each day with the help of our Laikipia Masai and Samburu staff. The number of camels on our safaris vary between 8 and 25 depending on how many guests are on the safari. The number of staff will range between 6 and 18. By using camels rather than vehicles we can access areas that vehicles cannot reach and still have a comfortable camp.

Typically we are woken before sunrise with a friendly 'hodi hodi' (wakey wakey) outside our tents and hot water in our basins. After a cup of tea or pressed coffee, some granola, eggs, toast and fruit we will set off with the rising sun. We walk through the morning looking for wildlife and birds, at the scenery and culture along the way and arrive at our new camp before lunch. We are accompanied by an armed guide, Laikipia Masai tracker and riding camels who also carry the refreshments and day packs. The camels can be ridden whenever the terrain allows. The walk is typically between 8 and 16 kms in the morning hours depending on the group, their interests and ages. The walks are all tailor-made and we remain as flexible as possible. We will stop occasionally for water and a light snack before carrying on to our next camp. The main team will have packed up the camp behind us and aim straight for the next campsite without stopping. We arrive at our new camp to be greeted with a cool drink and a freshly prepared lunch.

The afternoon is spent relaxing, enjoying a few hours in the shade reading, swimming in the river or having a siesta before going out again for an evening walk, rock climbing, visiting a manyatta, birdwatching or sundowners. The camels also use this time to relax and browse around camp. In the evening our staff will offer hot showers before we have drinks by the fire and a three-course dinner under the stars. Occasionally we may stay in the same camp for more than one night, venturing out to explore the immediate area, have brunch, visit the local market or school and go rock climbing or tracking wildlife.

We have led people of all ages from children of 4 to folks over 80. As each safari is tailor made to suit the group we can adjust each one accordingly. Our trips are popular with honeymooners as well as family groups and then friends wanting a few days together in Kenya's beautiful Laikipia and Samburu districts. We are supported by a wonderful staff of Masai, Samburu, and Turkana who are all local to the areas we operate in. Their collective knowledge of plant life, animal life and culture is enough to sustain a lifetime of study.

Where is Karisia?

Karisia Walking Safaris is located in eastern Laikipia, an area north of Mt. Kenya known for its wilderness and wildlife. The area boasts the highest diversity of large mammals in Kenya and is also home to several endangered species. Karisia Walking Safaris is only a two hour drive from Nanyuki Town and the scheduled flights that service it. We also have an airstrip for private charter flights - Kimancho. Paste the following GPS position into a Google Earth or Maps search and you can explore our area. NO 27.194 E36 57.444

What Will I See on Safari?

A walking safari offers a different perspective than a regular game drive trip. There are so many details that one can miss bouncing along in a vehicle. Plants, Reptiles, and Birds are all a much bigger part of a walking experience but the large game is also a big part. Landscapes too are a bit more accessible, namely because you can get farther from the roads and the distractions of other vehicles.

Our walking Safaris traverse beautiful country with geologic structures of immense age that tell stories of a turbulent and rich history beside the Rift Valley. Archeological Artifacts like flints, shards, graves and pottery litter much of the ground near our camps and in all this evidence are fascinating stories of an equally turbulent cultural history.

Our trips are guided by Laikipia Masai and Samburu guides. Our area has a very rich traditional culture and on market days all the warriors and women come dressed in their finest adornments. It is a beautiful site and a fun stop while we are walking.

Below is a short synopsis of the large mammals, and the most showy birds and reptiles that you can see on our walking trips.

Mammals: Guenther's Dikdik, Steinbuck, Klipspringer, Thompson's Gazelle, Grant's Gazelle, Gerenuk, Impala, Highland Hartebeest, Beisa Oryx, Waterbuck, Eland, Bushbuck, Lesser Kudu, Reticulated Giraffe, Elephant, Common Zebra, Grevy's Zebra, Hippo, Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Caracal, Serval Cat, Wildcat, Spotted Hyena, Striped hyena, Aardwolf, Wilddog, Black-backed Jackel, Bat-eared Fox, White-tailed Mongoose, Dwarf Mongoose, Slender-tailed Mongoose, Genet Cat, Bushbaby, Aardvark, Porcupine.

Birds: Ostrich, Kori Bustard, Von Der Decken's Hornbill, White-bellied Go-away Bird, Vitelline Masked Weaver, Spotted Thickknee, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, Eastern Chanting Goshawk, Tawny Eagle, Bateleur Eagle, Marico Sunbird, Red-fronted Warbler, Rufous Chatterer, Arnaud's Barbet.

Reptiles and Amphibians: Garmani Toad, Bubbling Kassina, Cryptotsis Sandfrog, Picturatus Dwarf Gecko, Brooks Gecko, Variable Skink, Red-headed Agama, Elementaita Agama, Long-tailed Lizard, Side-striped Chameleon.

