



**Bob
Brind-Surch**
Natures
Photos

The Big Cats of the Masai Mara

February / March 2018

A photographic workshop to Kenya's Masai Mara



**Bob Brind-Surch in association with
Safari Consultants**



The Big Cats of the Masai Mara

A photographic workshop to Kenya's iconic Masai Mara's Rolling Plains.



Join me, Bob Brind-Surch, on a very special guided photographic safari to the famous Masai Mara region of East Africa. Experience one of the world's last true wildernesses and bring back your own photographs of its iconic wildlife.

With many years' experience of East Africa and photographing its wildlife I have designed this trip specifically for the enthusiastic wildlife photographers interested in learning more about their camera and capturing some memorable images.

Each trip will be limited to a maximum of 8 guests and is often less. We'll be staying at Kicheche Mara a small and extremely comfortable classic tented luxury bush camp hidden in a beautiful acacia valley overlooking the Olare Orok stream. With only 8 tents the intimate and relaxed atmosphere of the Camp offers the perfect place to unwind after a long days Safari. They provide the perfect base from which to enjoy a unique wilderness experience in this the prime wildlife area of the Mara North Conservancy. Despite being in the middle of the African bush the camp has fully trained chefs who prepare excellent fresh food every day. This really is camping in style.

Each spacious Selous style tent is fully insect-proof and has solid cedar double or twin beds, linen, bedside tables, luggage racks and rugs. Bathrooms are en-suite and are equipped with a dresser, shower, flushing toilet and running water. Low wattage lighting is provided 24 hours per day and power for recharging batteries is available in the bar throughout the day. Each tent has further tables and chairs on a covered veranda to allow for additional game viewing whilst in camp. I choose this camp precisely because it offers such very high standards of accommodation, cuisine and wildlife guiding. It is ideal for those wishing to experience the real African bush away from large, often noisy and impersonal lodges. Its small size and excellent staff and facilities also enable me to provide you with the personal attention you would expect.



In addition to providing great photographic opportunities, this tour has been carefully designed to offer a wide appreciation of the natural beauty of Africa's wildlife, people and the environment. The itinerary is constructed



to give the maximum time in the field in order to provide you with unrivalled experiences and the very best photographic opportunities. I am always on hand to provide ad-hoc photographic tuition and assistance if required. My aim is simple, to ensure you have a highly enjoyable holiday where you can concentrate on your photography with truly unique opportunities to view and capture images of the natural world. All this whilst soaking up the very best wilderness experience in a comfortable and magic environment.



The Masai Mara is deservedly known as Africa's greatest wildlife reserve, and is famous for the abundance of lion and other big cats, the great wildebeest migration, a wealth of other wildlife and of course the Maasai people. It is without a doubt Africa's most well know and famous safari destination.

The Masai Mara National Reserve covers 1,510 sq km (580 sq miles) and rises 1,500-2,170 meters above sea level. The terrain is primarily grassland and riverine forest with clumps of the distinctive acacia trees and is Home to an unbelievable concentration of wildlife. The area has become well know having featured in many excellent TV programmes including the BBC's long

running "Big Cat Diaries" and "Big Cat Week" as well as the more recent Disney Nature's "African Cats". Big cats will definitely be on our agenda but we will also have ample opportunities to photograph the wide variety of other wildlife this area supports.

Throughout our stay we'll have our own specially adapted 4WD safari vehicles with a specialist local driver/guide. The guides at Kicheche are incredible and these completely open vehicles provide truly excellent photographic opportunities and allow you to enjoy being in this a true wilderness.

As well as an experienced photographic guide and naturalist I am a qualified teacher and tutor able to support everyone from the novice photographer to those who are considerably more experienced. My aim is to help you capture this unique location and especially its wildlife. I know the area well and, working with the local guides, will be on hand at all times to help you master the field techniques required for competent safari photography. My goal is to make sure you have a rewarding time and help you to translate your experiences into great and memorable photographs. Working with you in the field and back at the camp, I will attempt to help you improve and refine your photographic skills and understand better digital photography techniques and how to achieve some memorable images.

The drivers and local guides for this trip are well versed in the requirements of photographers. They know when and where to stop their vehicles, how to best position them for the available light and are prepared to wait in any location for as long as you require. They are also more than prepared to experiment with different vehicle positions so long as this doesn't stress the animals you are photographing. The animal's welfare comes first and stressed animals never make good photographs.

Unlike many other African safaris it is never my aim so see as many species as possible but rather to spend time observing animals and birds behaving naturally and as a direct consequence take the very best photos. This will not be an attempt to see the legendary "big five" but will certainly provide you with the opportunity to take stunning and natural photos.

We'll spend seven nights in the Kicheche Mara Camp on the very edge of the Masai Mara. This camp benefits from being in the Mara conservancy but not in the Masai Mara game reserve proper which provides for the same wildlife experiences and a far better chance of more personal, calmer encounters without masses of vehicles surrounding you.

The 4WD Landcruisers are equipped with convenient shelves so that you can easily rest your cameras on bean bags. I will have vehicles and drivers specifically allocated to our trip and will have no more than 4 guests per vehicle ensuring you will fully benefit from a "window seat" with excellent wildlife viewing and photography opportunities. We will leave camp before sunrise and, after a couple of hour's game-viewing, stop out on the plains amongst the game for an alfresco but tasty picnic breakfast. After breakfast we will continue our game-drive and return to camp for lunch and a short break when the midday heat and light are too harsh for



photography. We will return to the plains in the afternoon for further game viewing and finish at a picturesque location to enjoy a sundowner drink as we watch and photograph the setting sun. My drivers and the camp staff will provide me with a daily update on the movements of the local wildlife and we may on some days plan a longer itinerary taking a picnic lunch with us to eat under a tree during the midday heat.

As well as the cats such as Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Serval, Caracal the rich plains around the camp support an abundance of grazing animals, including sizeable Elephant herds, Cape Buffalo, Giraffe, Zebra and a variety of antelope such as Waterbuck, Impala, Thompson's Gazelle, Topi, Eland and Reedbuck. You should also see Hyena and Silver-backed Jackal, Hippopotamus, Baboon, Vervet Monkeys, Crocodile, Warthog and smaller mammals such as Mongoose. There are also a host of different bird species, over 500 different species have been recorded in the area including 50 species of raptors.



During our stay we will also have an opportunity to learn more about the people and culture of the area and if required we can arrange an optional visits to a Maasai village. It is also possible to take a nature walk with an experienced guide to learn more about the plant and insect life of the area. During the midday break in camp and after the evening meal I will ensure I am available for informal image viewing and critique on a laptop as well as providing ad-hoc tutorials on various aspects of photographic technique and equipment to supplement the guidance I am able to provide whilst out game viewing.

The camp and route have been especially selected by me working with the UK based company and experts in the region, Safari Consultants. Choosing the right company to arrange your African safari is vitally important and the complexity and remoteness of Africa means you need a company who have detailed knowledge and first-hand experience of the region. Safari Consultants are just such a company and provide me with an unrivalled service. Having specialised in safaris to East and Southern Africa since 1983 they are a company which wants to take the time to understand guests' requirements and desires and have the ability to create the perfect itinerary to match. This is exactly what I want for you and we have worked very well together for many years. The essence of this safari is that you can enjoy luxury combined with a real wilderness experience in both privacy and comfort whilst concentrating on game viewing and photography.

The trip will be limited to just 8 guests and the total cost will be **£5,495** per person based on two people sharing. I strongly believe that the price I charge should include everything and therefore, unlike many other providers, this price **includes** all international flights on Kenya Air (economy). It also includes all ground and air transfers as specified, twin/double accommodation on full board basis, game-viewing activities, park/conservation fees as described, house drinks and laundry on safari and UK and Kenyan airport departure taxes. For more information please refer to the itinerary details section below or contact me directly – contact details as follows.

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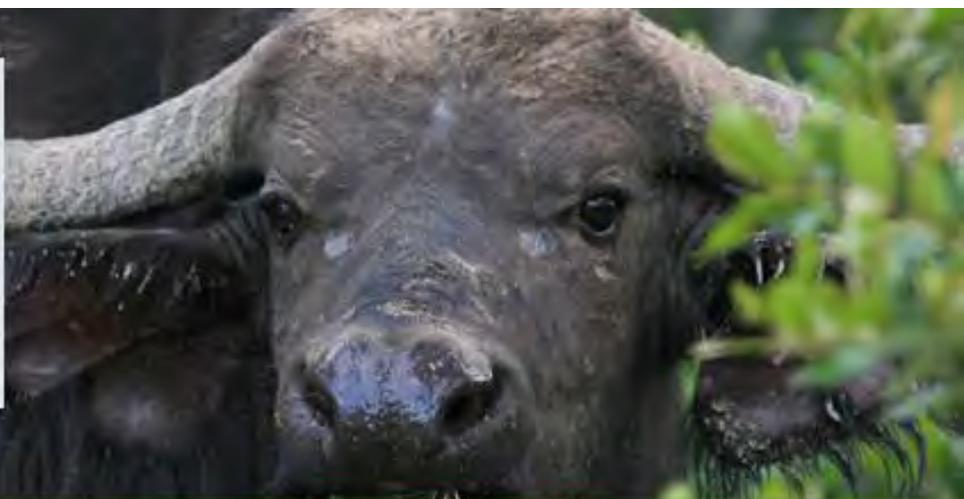
Tel 01327 352505 or mbl 07983 427202
e-mail bob@naturesphotos.co.uk

Before each trip I try to arrange a get together (guests locations permitting) and will issue you with full guidance on what you require regarding photographic equipment, pre-trip preparations e.g. clothing, medications etc. any local requirements, how to prepare and what to expect whilst in Africa.

Bob Brind-Surch



**Bob
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in association with Safari Consultants

Big Cats of the Masai Mara

a Bob Brind-Surch Natures Photo workshop to

Kenya

hosted by

Bob Brind-Surch

Duration: **9 Nights**

Designed for travel in **February/ March 2018**

Brind-Surch Natures Photos

23 Calvert Road, Greens Norton, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12
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This itinerary has been prepared for you by Safari Consultants Ltd.
specialists in travel to East & Southern Africa since 1983
Telephone: 01787 888590 web: safari-consultants.com



Itinerary in brief

Designed for travel in **February/ March 2018**

Day	Region	Accommodation	No. of	Board basis nights
22 Feb	In Flight	British Airways - London Heathrow to Nairobi		
	Nairobi	The Boma, Nairobi	1	Breakfast
23 Feb	Masai Mara	Kicheche Mara Camp, Mara North Conservancy, Masai Mara	7	Full Board
02 Mar	In Flight	British Airways - Nairobi to London Heathrow	1	Meals Included
03 Mar	London	British Airways - early arrival into London Heathrow		

Costing in brief

Due to the current volatility in the US Dollar and UK Pound exchange rates we have taken the decision to price the holiday in US Dollars and to the airfare separately in UK pounds.

Monies you pay as a deposit will be converted on the day of transfer at that day's exchange rate. If you require this rate can then be "pegged" as the rate to be used when the balance is paid thus ensuring you know the total price of your holiday in sterling in advance. Alternatively you can take a risk on the exchange rates prevailing at the time your deposit is due.

Land element *US\$6,040 per person*

International flights on British Airways from *£745.00 per person*

Total price in sterling at time of publishing this itinerary (30 May 2017) **£5,495**

Please see full itinerary for full costing details/inclusions and exclusions

Outline Itinerary

Day 1 22 February
World Traveller

British Airways - London Heathrow to Nairobi

Depart London Heathrow (Terminal 3) on the mid-morning British Airways flight to Nairobi, Kenya.

Evening arrival into Jomo Kenyatta International Airport Nairobi. After completing entry formalities, you will be met by our representatives from Benroso Safaris and transferred through to The Boma hotel for overnight in twin/single rooms.



The Boma, Nairobi

One Night
Single/Twin Superior
rooms
Breakfast

The Boma hotel is conveniently located just off the main Mombasa Road, equidistant between the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and the smaller Wilson Airport (about 15 minutes from either). Although large and modern, we recommend the hotel as it is owned and run by the Kenya Red Cross Society as a sustainable source of income.

The luxury hotel caters for just under 300 guests and is made up of 120 superior rooms (their standard), 20 deluxe rooms (which have a bit more sitting area), and 8 suites of various sizes. All rooms are air conditioned and furnished to high international standards with en suite bathrooms (bath, separate shower, loo and vanity), high speed Wi-Fi internet, LED television, stocked minibar, in-room safe, direct dial telephones. The central areas consist of a public coffee shop atrium, a resident's lounge, two restaurants and a cocktail bar, and the Zoezi Health Club and Spa which offers a variety of treatments, steam and sauna rooms, a gym and a rooftop swimming pool.



Day 2 23 February

Kicheche Mara Camp, Mara North Conservancy, Masai Mara

Seven Nights
Single/Twin tents
Full Board

After breakfast, you will be met and transferred through to the smaller Wilson Airport where you connect with the scheduled mid-morning SafariLink air transfer service to the rolling plains of the famous Masai Mara. On arrival into the Mara North airstrip (the flight could stop at several airstrips. Your pilot will confirm at which to disembark), you will be met by Bob Brind-Surch and your guides from Kicheche Mara Camp and transferred, game-viewing en route, to the seasonal camp where you arrive for the seven night Bob Brind-Surch's Natures Photos workshop.

Days are spent exploring the plains on game-viewing activities hosted by Bob and the camp guides.

Kicheche Mara Camp is a seasonal bushcamp in the traditional style, and accommodates a maximum of sixteen guests in comfortable twin/double bedded tents each with en suite bathroom facilities consisting of a bucket shower (a traditional shower rose fed from a bucket), a flush loo, and vanity. The tented camp is set up in a beautiful secluded valley overlooking the upper reaches of the OlareOrok River within the Mara North Conservancy. There is no permanent electricity with lighting provided by generator/battery, solar, candle or hurricane lanterns. Hot water for the bucket showers is available on call. Tents are furnished with proper beds with linen,

table and chairs (on the verandah). Meals are generally taken al fresco, although there is a mess tent when the weather is inclement. Kicheche has a secluded tented lounge (the Nyati tent) with a selection of reference books and easy chairs - the perfect spot to relax during the heat of the day. Activities include game-viewing drives, nature walks and visits to local Masai manyattas (villages). The camp is ideal for those wishing to experience the real African bush away from large, often noisy, lodges and holds a Gold eco-rated certificate from Eco Tourism Kenya.

Kicheche Mara Camp is located outside the official Masai Mara Game Reserve within the Mara North Conservancy. Game-viewing around the camp is superb and animals often wander through the camp at night. Lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and giraffe are often seen from the verandahs of the tents themselves, and zebra and buffalo help keep the lawns short!

Most game-viewing will take place on the plains around camp, but should you wish to visit the reserve itself (not necessary except for river crossings during the migration period when Kicheche include one reserve entry for every three nights spent in camp anyway), any Reserve fees will be due in camp at the applicable rate.

Masai Mara - Introduction

The Masai Mara, perhaps the world's most famous wildlife area, lies at an elevation of around 5,500 feet and is one of the few areas left in Africa where animals can be seen in the large numbers that existed a hundred years ago. The predominantly open grassland plains are dotted with trees and thickets, and incised with forested drainage lines and a couple of rivers which flow, or hold water, throughout the year (Mara River and Talek). The drier parts of the region have a few thickets of acacia woodland and whistling thorn.

The diverse habitat enables many different species to co-exist: elephant, black rhino, Masai giraffe, Cape buffalo, eland, Burchell's zebra, topi, Coke's hartebeest, wildebeest, waterbuck, impala, Thomson's gazelle, reedbuck, lion, leopard, cheetah, hyaena, jackal, genet, civet and serval, hippo, crocodile, baboon, vervet monkey, warthog, various mongoose species, and many more (we would be particularly interested to hear if you see roan antelope or oribi). During July to October, the Mara is home to the famous wildebeest migration which is accompanied by large numbers of zebra. Over 500 bird species have been recorded in the area, including Denham's bustard, Temminck's courser, yellow-throated sandgrouse, Usambiro barbet, saddle-billed stork and Gabon nightjar. Some 50 of the bird species are raptors; the large martial eagle even preys on small antelope. To the north of the National Reserve lie the communal lands of the Maasai people some of which are now incorporated into three exclusive conservancies - Mara North, OlareOrok/Motorogi and Naboisho. These conservancies are a self-funded partnership between a few tourism partners (running camps and lodges) and the local communities, guaranteeing an annual income for every land owner in a transparent and well managed way. This has resulted in these conservancies offering a very exclusive wildlife viewing experience - the OOC and Naboisho in particular have very low bed/acre densities. The managed land use still allows the wildlife to mix freely with the local Maasai people, who can often be seen tending their livestock. They are a very proud people and an integral part of the 'landscape'.

Day 9 02 March

British Airways - Nairobi to London Heathrow

One Night

World Traveller

Morning at leisure for further game-viewing (you may need to check out of your tents but will have use of the camp facilities until your departure).

In the mid-afternoon, transfer back to the airstrip and connect with the scheduled SafariLink air transfer service back to Wilson Airport, Nairobi. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to a suitable restaurant/hotel where you have the opportunity to have an early dinner (your account). Later, transfer out to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport where you connect with the scheduled late evening British Airways flight to London. Depart Nairobi around midnight, overnight in flight.

Day 10 03 March

British Airways - early arrival into London Heathrow

Early morning arrival into London Heathrow (Terminal 3).

COSTING DETAILS:

Land Price Per person *US\$6,040*

International flights on British Airways from *£745.00 per person*

Price in total at todays rate
(30 May 2017) **£5,495**

Included

- international flights on British Airways (World Traveller)
- ground and air transfers as specified
- twin/double/single accommodation on board basis mentioned
- game-viewing activities, park/conservation fees, house drinks and laundry at Kicheche Mara Camp
- photographic services of Bob Brind-Surch
- UK and Kenya international airport departure taxes

Not Included

- visa fees for Kenya - eVISA US\$50.00 per person plus processing fee
- travel insurance
- personal items and gratuities
- optional tours and excursions

Deposit required to confirm arrangements: *US\$750 / £635.00 per person*

Single supplement if required: *US\$ 1220.00 per person*

Please note that this itinerary makes use of light aircraft air transfers which have strict baggage restrictions. Maximum weight is 15 kgs including hand luggage. All bags should be of the soft 'hold-all' variety.

All our holidays are fully bonded for your financial protection under the CAA ATOL scheme or through our membership of ABTOT. Remember, if you decide to book direct with companies in Africa, or through a non-bonded company here in the UK, your money is at risk. Please do not hesitate to ask us for further information.

[Please click here to see our general information and current terms](#)

Why Safari Consultants?

Having been in business since 1983, we continually strive to offer four key elements for all our customers:

The best advice possible. Really good advice is the cornerstone requirement for any 'specialist' safari holiday, and will turn your experience of Africa from a 'good' holiday to an 'exceptional' holiday. We only specialise in Africa (and the Indian Ocean Islands) and our team of safari specialists are continually travelling to check up on places, visit new destinations and learn about the practicalities of travelling around the African continent.

A friendly, personal and caring service. Planning and booking a specialist safari holiday should be a fun and energising experience. We have always been a small company offering a very personal service. All of our customers are extremely important to us and treated as such, and we meet many of them in person, either when planning their holidays (where practical), at travel shows or at social functions we arrange. We are passionate about Africa and genuinely care about the success of every holiday we arrange.

A totally professional service at all times. We endeavour to provide prompt responses to all enquiries and questions, clear and correct information at all times, flexibility throughout and attention to detail with your preferences and requirements. When you travel with us, you always have our full support and back up, as our management team are on hand 24/7 in case of any difficulties or emergencies.

Good value for money. All our customers require good value for money and fair pricing every time they travel. On a more subtle note, our specialist knowledge is crucial in ensuring you really make the most of your holiday budget.

And finally, we provide 100% financial guarantees through our ATOL licence (No. 3783) and our membership of ABTOT (No. 5246).

Your Specialist Consultant



Bill Adams, Director

Bill founded Safari Consultants in 1983 having moved to London from his native South Africa. Growing up in Johannesburg, schooling in the Eastern Cape, and spending two years doing national service in South West Africa (now Namibia) had allowed him to experience much of what that region has to offer, gaining a natural understanding of the African bush. Bill spent the 'eighties' and early nineties exploring East Africa in depth, whilst continuing to visit new and developing regions of southern Africa. At various stages in the 'early years' he was instrumental in helping to develop the African tourism industry, whether supporting the opening up of remote parks (Ruaha) or promoting individual safari initiatives (bush homestead stays and portered safari walks). His knowledge on all things Africa is deep, and being involved with the continent for so long has allowed him to explore some really remote and interesting regions – there are few places in East and Southern Africa where he has not been. Bill has travelled frequently to Africa with his wife and children and has a keen interest in birds.

Additional Information/Useful Links

[About Safari Consultants](#)

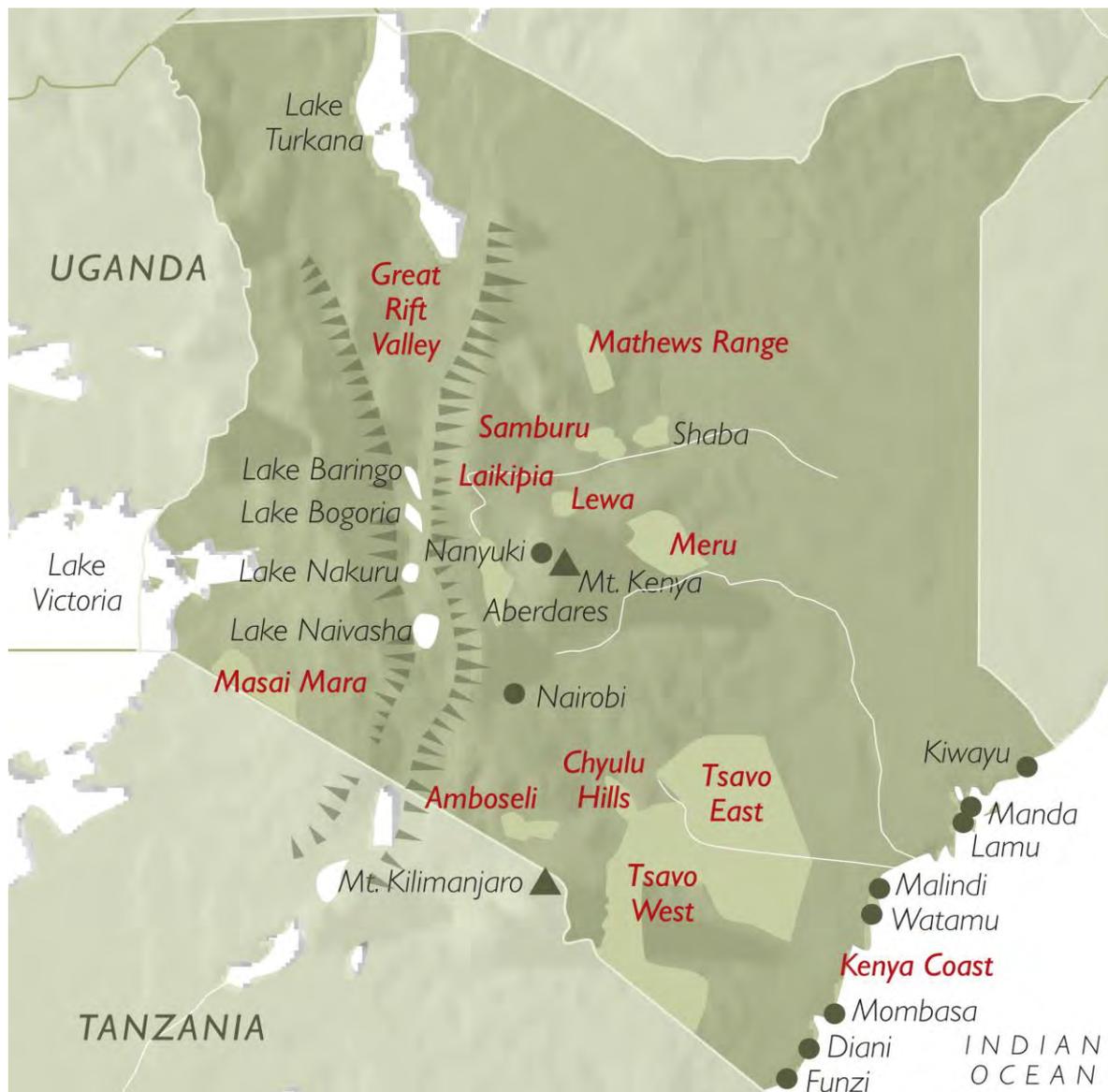
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Kenya



BRIEF OVERVIEW

From rugged hills and montane forests to endless savannah plains, Kenya offers incredible physical diversity. The scenery is breath-taking and the wildlife viewing is some of the finest available in the world, with the Masai Mara leading an impressive list of great safari areas. Walking safaris, horse riding safaris and mountain trekking will appeal to the more adventurous, and cultural interaction with the charismatic Maasai or Samburu is highly likely on any safari. For those looking for relaxation, the glistening white sands of the Indian Ocean coastline beckon.

Kenya's safari history goes back to the early 1900's and its fine tradition of personal guiding and warm hospitality still exists today. While a few wildlife parks have become commercially busy, it is a mistake to assume that exclusive safari regions, remote wilderness areas and intimate safari properties do not exist. Kenya caters for the experienced enthusiast just as easily as the first-time visitor.

Easy to reach from Europe and with a varied and well-organised internal tourism infrastructure, Kenya safaris deliver good value for money compared to other comparable destinations. In particular, Kenya offers some of the most cost effective 'safari and beach' combinations. Whether budget is important to you or not, this ability to easily combine incredible game-viewing with beautiful beaches has always made Kenya a wonderful family holiday or honeymoon destination.

Whether you're looking for a specialist wildlife experience, a 'bush & beach' special celebration holiday, or perhaps a wonderful African adventure as a family, Kenya is the perfect destination to consider.



Bob Brind-Surch - Natures Photos

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