

KENYA

BEST OF KENYA

JANUARY 15–24, 2022



Our Kenya safari showcases the absolute best of Kenya, with visits to three renowned wildlife rich areas: Amboseli, Samburu and the Masai Mara. As we observe wildlife in its natural habitat your AWF leader will share conservation issues facing the parks, conservancies and reserves. We kick this 10-day safari off with a visit to AWF's headquarters in Nairobi and a visit to the Sheldrick elephant orphanage. We then head out on safari to behold some of the most outstanding wildlife rich parks, reserves and conservancies and learn about important AWF legacy work that has taken place over the last 6 decades in Kenya. This includes conservation enterprise work, conservancy work, and the Charlotte Fellows Program which AWF created – providing a platform for powerful local conservation leadership.

This safari is led by AWF's safari program manager, Carter Smith. Carter called Kenya home for 20+ years. She conducted her graduate work in ecology on the martial eagle here and operated her own safari company and worked in elephant conservation.

© Billy Dodson (left)



Nancy Githaiga, AWF's Country Director for Kenya, is a scientist and environmental advocate passionate about sustainable development and interested in the nexus between development and conservation. She's a firm believer that a just world is possible, one in which current and future generations thrive from the natural capital base the planet provides. She has over 15 years' experience with non-governmental organizations in conservation and development. Prior to joining AWF, she was Head of Conservation Programmes at WWF-Kenya, where she provided leadership, strategic direction, oversight, and coordination of WWF-Kenya's conservation portfolio while ensuring effective planning and delivery of conservation goals.



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BEST OF KENYA

DATES

January 15 – 24, 2022

GROUP SIZE

Between 6 and 10

PRICE

AWF exclusive price:

\$12,649/ £9,110 per person sharing

 **exodustravels**

This luxury safari showcases the absolute best of Kenya, with adventures in three of the most renowned wildlife-rich areas: Amboseli, Samburu, and the Maasai Mara. On this expedition, we observe elephants and other wildlife in their natural habitats and gain an understanding of some of the key conservation issues facing the parks, conservancies, and reserves. All against a backdrop of Kenya's iconic landscapes. This safari is led by a skilled and qualified AWF guide who possesses an incredible passion for Africa's wildlife and vast knowledge of Kenya's natural world, history, and culture.

DAY 1

PALACINA HOTEL

Arrive in Nairobi and join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner at your hotel. Meet your knowledgeable and attentive AWF safari leader for a briefing on the journey ahead. **Meals included: dinner**

DAY 2

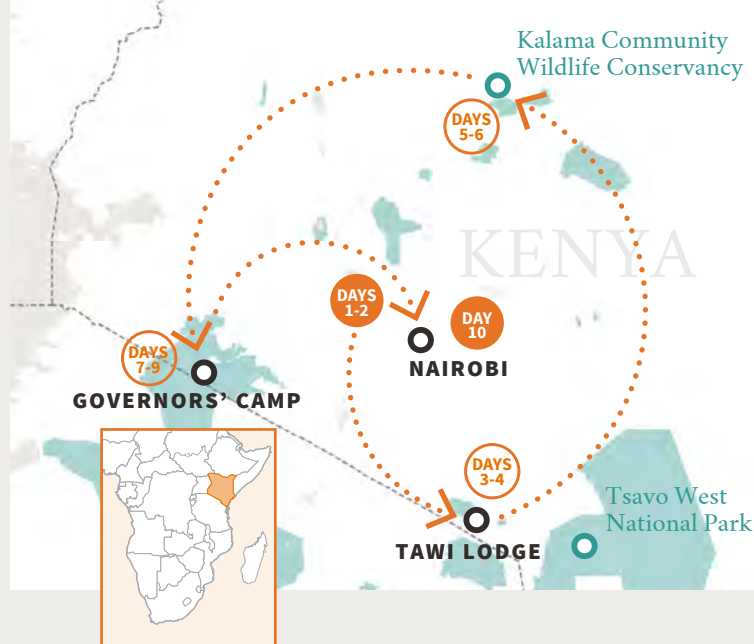
PALACINA HOTEL

We'll spend time at the AWF Conservation Centre for a behind-the-scenes look at the AWF's global headquarters. We'll also visit the Giraffe Centre, where you can meet several Rothschild giraffe residents up close. Then, we'll experience the Karen Blixen Museum — named after the author of the famous memoir *Out of Africa*. In the afternoon, you'll visit the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, highly regarded for its rescue and rehabilitation work with orphaned elephants. **Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

DAYS 3-4

TAWI LODGE: AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

Board a short flight to Amboseli National Park, renowned for its wildlife variety and landscape dominated by the iconic, snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro. Your luxury eco-accommodation, the award-winning Tawi Lodge, sits in the middle of the Kilitome Conservancy. This conservancy was created by AWF and local Maasai landowners and helps to ensure conservation work benefits both the wildlife and the community. Spend your days here exploring the conservancy and Amboseli ecosystem, searching for giraffes, elephants, lions, and cheetahs. **Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner**



DAYS 5-6

SAMBURU SARUNI: KALAMA COMMUNITY WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

Fly north to the Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy, bordering the Samburu National Reserve. Our eco-lodge, perched high atop the hills of the Northern Frontier, offers luxurious accommodations in open villages with unforgettable panoramic vistas. The region is home to elephants, leopards, reticulated giraffes, and Grevy's zebras. Learn how the conservancy, with the support of the Northern Rangelands Trust, is facing challenges such as poaching and human-wildlife conflict. Gain a better understanding of the critical role tourism plays in creating revenue for conservation and community development. **Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

DAYS 7-9

GOVERNORS' CAMP, MASAI MARA

From Samburu, fly southwest to the heart of Kenya's most famous game reserve, the Masai Mara. The Mara's rolling grasslands and riverine forests are the northern extensions of Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. The reserve is noted for its predators, and large prides of lions, cheetahs, hyenas, and leopards are all found here. You'll stay at Governors' Camp (the first permanent tented camp in the Masai Mara), nestled in the forest along the winding banks of the Mara River. Each classic safari tent has an en-suite bathroom and private veranda. Take an optional hot-air balloon ride and watch the sunrise while floating above the treetops lining the Mara River — you'll have a bird's eye view and a lifelong memory. **Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

DAY 10

NAIROBI

After a final early morning game drive, fly back to Nairobi in time for lunch at the Ole-Sereni Hotel. In the afternoon, relax in your dayroom prior to your transfer to the Nairobi airport for your onward flight arrangements. **Meals included: breakfast, lunch**



AWF Counter-Wildlife Trafficking Unit

BY CARTER SMITH, AWF SAFARI PROGRAM MANAGER

After habitat loss and fragmentation, trafficking is the severest threat to wildlife, especially dire for endangered species such as elephants and rhinos. Experts estimate the illegal wildlife trade (IWT) is worth \$8-10 billion annually.

In 2012, during a workshop at AWF's Nairobi headquarters, an array of professionals involved in conservation — law enforcers, prosecutors, and others — proposed that Africa strengthen its counter-wildlife trafficking (CWT). Shortly after, AWF worked with the Kenya Wildlife Service to procure, train, and deploy sniffer dogs, along with their skilled handlers, to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and other IWT hotspots.

Since that focused start on enhancing contraband detection, AWF has grown its CWT program to include capacity-building in deterring and investigating wildlife crime as well as prosecuting offenders. We launched the Canines for Conservation program in 2014, Wildlife Law Enforcement Program in 2015, and Cybercrime Investigation Program in 2019. This Counter Wildlife Trafficking unit has 14 staff members spread across eight countries: Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Tanzania, Botswana, Cameroon, Mozambique, and Uganda.

The Canines program trains dogs and their handlers (oftentimes rangers from wildlife authorities) to conduct searches for illegal products in transportation hubs and other smuggling hotspots. The teams have, to date, made approximately 470 finds of ivory, rhino horn, and other contraband. The impact of these busts transcends the thwarting of specific trafficking operations — merely by their presence, canine teams act as deterrents.

Our Wildlife Judicial and Prosecutorial Assistance Program sensitizes prosecutors and other law enforcers to the importance of wildlife protection and appropriate punishments for offenders. We also address logistical challenges in courts that can prevent cases from moving forward, while training rangers and other investigators how to manage crime scenes, handle evidence, and be effective court witnesses.

Our Wildlife Cybercrime Investigation program seeks to build the capacity of AWF's law-enforcement partners to intercept illegal online trade and carry out cybercrime investigations. To date, we're supporting cybercrime capacity-building in Kenya, Uganda, and the DRC. AWF has established relationships with a dozen government and private-sector organizations to support this leading-edge wildlife protection effort.



AWF HISTORIC MOMENT *Wildlife Clubs of Kenya*

Between 1969 and 1971, AWF helped Kenya launch a network of nearly 200 wildlife clubs designed to inspire the nation's young people as future conservationists. The Wildlife Clubs of Kenya are still active today, with more than 9,000 followers on Facebook and frequent outings and activities, including tree planting and invasive plant removal.

Meet Your Guide



Carter Smith

AWF's Safari Program Manager, Carter Smith, moved to Kenya in 1994 to pursue her dream of a life of wildlife conservation in Africa, and she never looked back. She spent her early years in the bush rehabilitating birds of prey while completing her graduate degree in Ecology on the Martial Eagle. She later joined Sir Iain Douglas-Hamilton at Save the Elephants, while also becoming one of the first female licensed safari guides with the Kenya Safari Guide Association. In 2005, she founded her own safari venture and spent the next 15 years leading private safaris in East Africa. Carter joined AWF in 2019 to lead the Safari Program and looks forward to every trip when she can take guests on the adventure of a lifetime. Carter is also the author of the children's book *African Tea*.

*Note: While Carter is scheduled to lead this trip, AWF is equipped with a range of highly dedicated staff members that may lead your trip. A second leader will accompany Carter if trip attendance permits.

To learn more or to reserve your spot, contact:

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