

## **Specialized Walking Safaris:**

If you have spent any time on our website you know that we are very strong proponents of “getting on the ground” in order to truly experience all the wonders that these countries have to offer. To that end we have teamed up with a few select guides who are at the top of their game and recognized as some of the most respected professional guides in their respective countries. Each holds the coveted professional guide designation and both Phil and Jean work with the guide accreditation services to review and draft new certification standards. They have served as consultants for and have been presenters of nature programs for The Discovery Channel and Animal Planet. These guys are seriously good at what they do and what they do best is to share their vast knowledge and love of the African bush with you. A customized trip with one of them takes your safari journey to a whole new level.

These highly professional walking safaris range in duration from 3 days to 2 weeks, or longer if your schedule permits, and are offered in Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia.

### **A sample itinerary for a 2 week walk through Kenya might include:**

Mathews Mountain Range/ Northern Namunyak – 4 nights

Laikipia, Lewa/Il Ngwesi - 4 nights

Mt. Kenya – 2 nights

Masai Mara – 3 nights

In the little visited Mathews Mountains you will walk through beautiful forested areas and along rock pools and streams. This area is known for its great botanical specimens, birdlife and sightings of elephant and buffalo. Lodging will consist of permanent tented camps and/or fly camps. During the dry season, a highlight is a visit to the Sarara ‘singing wells’ where Samburu warriors bring their cattle to drink. The warriors line these 30 foot deep caverns forming a human chain while chanting traditional Samburu songs praising their herds as they pass water up by hand for the cattle. The Sarara area is also known for its stable population of wild dogs and a couple of resident leopards.

Your walk in the Laikipia area from Lewa to Il Ngwesi will focus on big game tracking (particularly rhino) and bushcraft. You will traverse the bushveld with a camel-supported team following ‘honey’ guides for wild Acacia honey, using comfortable 2 man pup tents.

As a bit of a break from your intensive walking, you will then fly into Rotundu at an elevation of 12,000 ft on the slopes of Mt. Kenya. Lodging consists of lakeside log cabins where you can enjoy trout fishing, hiking or just relaxing by log fires. If you are comfortable walking at this altitude, the hour hike up to the beautiful glacial Lake Alice is not to be missed.

**One With Africa**

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Then it is on to the Masai Mara walking zones where you will spend your days in either the northern boundary near Koiyaki/Ol Kinyei Conservancy or in the Sand River area in the south. Location is dependent on the time of year and game movement. The focus here is on lion tracking and you will end your journey by enjoying all the creature comforts of an exclusive, high-end mobile tented camp.

**Or how about a 3 night walk in Tarangire NP, Tanzania with one night spent in a tree nest?**

After driving in from Arusha and enjoying an easy bush walk, you will spend your first night in a small but comfortable camp nestled between huge rocks. Wake the next morning for a short walk to hike to the top of Ol Donyo Sambu (really more like a large hill) where you will enjoy stunning vistas out over the plains. Descend and drive to a very remote corner of the Tarangire National Park, arriving for a late lunch. After lunch and a brief rest you can opt for a short bush walk in the area. Tonight you will sleep in a tree nest overlooking waterholes where hundreds of elephants come to drink and bathe at night. We are betting that this will be one of the highlights of your walking journey.

The following day, after a relaxing morning by the waterholes, you'll have lunch in the shade of some acacia trees and set off to your next camp. Since a dry swamp must be crossed, the trip will be partly on foot and partly by vehicle. Your camp is situated on a rise overlooking the Tarangire River, another great spot from which to view the herds coming down to the water in the late afternoon.

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