



CHEESEMANS' ECOLOGY SAFARIS

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Kenya Extension

Laikipia Plateau, Arid Lands, and Great Rift Valley

February 21 to 28, 2022



Elephants

© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

EXTENSION OVERVIEW

Discover the many arid-adapted species unique to Kenya: the highly endangered Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, gerenuk, Beisa oryx, and unique birds like Somali ostrich and golden-breasted starling. Wind your way to the Laikipia Plateau in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, seize your chance to encounter African wild dogs, and travel west to Kenya's Rift Valley to find black and white rhinos and Rothchild's giraffe at Lake Nakuru National Park.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Stay in a tented camp overlooking the Ewaso Nyiro River while olive baboons and black-faced vervets mill about.
- Marvel at the adaptations the animals of arid Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves have gained.
- Watch graceful flamingos feeding in the alkali waters of Lake Nakuru.

TRIP OPTION: This is a post-trip extension to our Tanzania trip from February 5 to 22, 2022 (www.cheesemans.com/trips/tanzania-feb2022).

LEADERS: Grephus Ingati, plus Zach Waithaka if we have more than 4 participants.

DAYS: Adds 6 days to the main trip to total 24 days, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 8.

COST: \$5,850 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for one-way flight from Kilimanjaro to Nairobi), singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 4.

| Date | Description | Accommodation | Meals |
|-----------|---|---|---------|
| Feb 21 | After the Tanzania trip, you'll spend the evening relaxing before departing for Kenya. | Kia Lodge, Arusha | — |
| Feb 22–23 | Fly from Arusha, Tanzania, to Nairobi, Kenya for our Kenya extension. Game drives in Ol Pejeta Conservancy. | Sweetwaters Serena Camp, Ol Pejeta Conservancy | B, L, D |
| Feb 24–25 | Explore Samburu's and Buffalo Springs' arid environments. | Larsens Camp, Samburu National Reserve | B, L, D |
| Feb 26 | Head south to the Rift Valley and Lake Nakuru National Park with white rhinos and flamingos. | Sarova Lion Hill Game Lodge, Nakuru National Park | B, L, D |
| Feb 27 | Morning game drive, lunch, and then return to Nairobi. Prepare for our Mountain Gorilla extension or depart for home. | Ole-Sereni Hotel, Nairobi (dayroom) | B, L |
| Feb 28 | Fly to Kigali to continue on our Mountain Gorilla extension or arrive home. | | |

OPTIONS

- Continue your journey on our Mountain Gorilla extension from February 27 to March 3, 2022. Trek the forests of the Virunga Mountains to encounter Rwanda's "gentle giant," the mountain gorilla. See full itinerary at www.cheesemans.com/extension/rwanda-ext-feb2022.

LEADERS



Grephus Andalo Ingati

Grephus is an excellent naturalist who has great knowledge of the birds and mammals of Kenya. He is also a photographer and great at positioning the vehicle so everyone has a chance to take photos. Wonderful teachers filled his childhood in a very bird- and primate-rich area, the Kakamega Forest in western Kenya. He was one of nine students chosen from Kakamega to receive an in-depth course in forest ecology. He and his family also run an organic farm in the Kakamega area.

Zach Waitthaka

Zach has been a guide for Cheesemans' Kenya safaris since the 1980s and received many accolades. An outstanding naturalist and excellent driver, he loves to locate hard-to-find predators, especially cats. He and his wife own a farm in the fertile Kenya Highlands. Zach will join Grephus only if we have more than 4 participants.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Feb 21 ~ Overnight in Arusha

Relax overnight in Arusha, Tanzania at the end of the Tanzania trip (www.cheesemans.com/trips/tanzania-feb2022) and prepare for this extension.

Feb 22–23 ~ Travel from our Tanzania trip to the Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Fly from Kilimanjaro to Nairobi where you'll meet your guide. Enjoy the scenery as you weave through the farmlands in the Kenya Highlands nestled between Mount Kenya and the Aberdare Mountains arriving at Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

Ol Pejeta is the largest black rhino sanctuary in east Africa and home to the two last remaining northern white rhino in the world. It has some of the highest predator densities in Kenya and still manages a very successful livestock program. It is also the only place in Kenya to see chimpanzees in a sanctuary established to rehabilitate animals rescued from the black market.



Grevy's Zebra
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Optional: While at Sweetwaters Serena Camp, you can take part in a night game drive (not included). We will include more details in your Trip Materials.

Feb 24–25 ~ Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves

As you depart from Ol Pejeta Conservancy to Samburu National Reserve, watch the rolling countryside of the Kikuyu transform into an arid frontier as you drive through Isiolo, where many tribes live side by side.

At Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserves, you'll explore the arid lands and the variety of adapted mammals and birds you'll find

nowhere else during your trip, including the rare Grevy's zebra. Adaptations allow these animals to get much of their water from leaves and other food sources, but the nearby Ewaso Nyiro River provides water for animals that need to drink daily, such as elephants. You'll scan for gerenuk, known as giraffe-necked gazelle, delicately balancing on their hind legs while browsing bushes at heights of four to six feet. Search for Beisa oryx with their 30-inch narrow horns held perfectly perpendicular to the ground while feeding. Compare the colors and patterns of the patches on the reticulated giraffe as they browse the trees alongside the red-brown waters of Ewaso Nyiro River. Stare intently at the electric blue colors on the vulturine guineafowl running alongside your vehicle. These protected lands provide refuge for many special animals amid the agricultural lands that surround them.

Optional: Choose to visit a Samburu manyatta (extended family home) to photograph Samburu people in traditional dress performing dances and songs (not included).

Feb 26 ~ Lake Nakuru National Park in the Great Rift Valley

Travel southward to Lake Nakuru National Park through Isiolo and across the equator. Lake Nakuru is famous for the lesser and greater flamingos congregating to feed in the alkali waters, making for spectacular photography in the evening light. Observe southern white rhinos and learn about the anatomical difference between white and black rhinos. Search for Rothchild's giraffe foraging in the acacia woodlands surrounding the lake and perhaps a leopard sleeping in an acacia tree.



White Rhinos
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Feb 27 ~ Return to Nairobi for flights homeward

Spend your last morning at Lake Nakuru before departing on your drive back to Nairobi. If you are *not* continuing on our Mountain Gorilla extension, use your dayroom at the lodge to refresh and prepare for your flight home, or stay overnight to prepare for our Mountain Gorilla extension in Rwanda (www.cheesemans.com/extension/rwanda-ext-feb2022).

Feb 28 ~ Join our Mountain Gorilla extension or arrive home

Fly to Kigali to join our Mountain Gorilla extension in Rwanda (www.cheesemans.com/extension/rwanda-ext-feb2022) or arrive home.

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

| Type | Cost per Person |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Extension Cost, double occupancy | \$5,850 |
| Single Supplement | \$1,300 |

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for one-way flight from Kilimanjaro to Nairobi), singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will find a roommate for you, but if we cannot find you a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement. Single rooms cost extra and are subject to availability.

Payment Schedule

Payment is due with your main trip's final payment; see its trip itinerary for details at www.cheesemans.com/trips/tanzania-feb2022.

Cancellations

Cancellations are non-transferrable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

Included

- All leaders, transport, park entry fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- One-way flight from Kilimanjaro to Nairobi on February 22.
- Transfer from Ole-Sereni Hotel to Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on February 27.
- Accommodations for the nights of February 21 through February 26 and a dayroom on February 27.
- Meals from breakfast on February 22 (breakfast and lunch on February 21 are included in the main trip) through lunch on February 27.
- Bottled beverages – each lodge provides bottles of drinking water in your room daily.
- Short Term AMREF Flying Doctor medical emergency evacuation insurance. This does not include hospital or treatment costs. For more information see www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance.
- Trip Materials – information about flights, packing, entry and departure requirements, airport transfers, gratuities, etc.

Not Included

- All airfare (except flights listed as included), airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Divergent airport transfers and extra hotel nights but can be arranged for an extra cost.
- Bottled beverages cost extra during meals except at breakfast when water is often available to fill your water bottle.
- Optional night drive at Sweetwaters Camp and visit to Samburu manyatta (extended family home).
- Gratuities – Tipping is always discretionary. However, we suggest budgeting about \$20 to \$22 per participant per day for February 22 to February 27 with our leaders (about \$120 to \$132 total *per participant*).
- Trip cancellation insurance. For more information see www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Reservation Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

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OTHER DETAILS

Accommodations

We stay in top-notch lodges and tented camps with private baths in close proximity to the parks/reserves and wildlife.

Transportation

We travel in pop-top Land Cruisers with shaded roof covers that provide 360° viewing and excellent photography opportunities. With only four participants in each seven-passenger vehicle, you'll have more space for your gear and changing vantage points.

Flights

Unless listed as included, airfare is not included in trip costs. Detailed logistical information and the contact information for our recommended flight-ticketing agent are included in the Trip Materials we will send you.

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive in Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) near Arusha, Tanzania, by February 6. Depart from Nairobi, Kenya (NBO) no earlier than the evening of February 27. **If you are continuing on the Rwanda extension**, see the *Flights* section in its itinerary for departure information (www.cheesemans.com/extension/rwanda-ext-feb2022).

Flights we book for you: The one-way flight from Kilimanjaro International Airport to Nairobi, Kenya is included in the extension cost.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current Terms and Conditions at <https://cheesemans.com/terms-and-conditions>.

Conservation

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is passionate about conserving the precious regions that we travel to and supports many conservation efforts. By visiting these areas, we contribute to sustainable conservation of these valuable wildlife habitats. We urge you to support conservation organizations that protect and restore natural habitats and write letters to tourism and government agencies to promote work in preserving wildlife.

We aim to make all our trips carbon neutral by splitting the cost of carbon offsetting with our participants. For your convenience, the optional donation amount for your half of the carbon offset will be indicated on your invoice. We source high quality offsets through CarbonTree Conservation Fund, a non-profit we helped found, supporting pioneering forest conservation in the Rio Bravo Reserve in Belize, a Nature Conservancy project (www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/latin-america/belize/rio-bravo-conservation-area/).