

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

A LIFE OF MAKING MEMORIES

SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

The East African Rift Expedition

“The Maasai Mara at dawn from a balloon, cross-border to Rwanda, gorilla trekking at Bisate, and the Intore warrior dance”

13

DAYS

Private

GUIDE

Luxury

STAYS

FROM

\$14,550

PER PERSON

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Overview

A cross-border masterpiece combining the absolute finest highlights of both Kenya and Rwanda. Guests are dropped directly into Kenya's legendary Maasai Mara for an intensive 4-day big-game safari before flying across the border to Rwanda for the life-changing mountain gorilla encounter in the misty Virunga volcanoes. They experience private fly-in safaris tracking the Big Five, a sunrise hot-air balloon over the Mara River, two nights in Kigali exploring its memorial and arts scene, and then five nights at Bisate Lodge — the most celebrated luxury property in Rwanda — for gorilla trekking, Golden Monkey tracking, and the Intore warrior dance. The journey concludes back in Nairobi at the JW Marriott.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Angama Mara or Mara Plains Camp on the Oloololo Escarpment: champagne sundowner over the Mara plains as Africa's greatest sunset unfolds
- Hot-air balloon over the Maasai Mara at dawn — hippos, crocodiles, and elephants viewed from above in golden morning light
- Kigali Genocide Memorial private historian tour and Inema Arts Center contemporary Rwandan art — Rwanda's profound renewal story
- Mountain gorilla trekking in Volcanoes NP: an unforgettable hour with a Silverback family in the misty bamboo forest
- Migration season: over 1.5 million wildebeest, zebras, and gazelles crossing the Mara River in the world's greatest wildlife spectacle
- Gourmet open grassland white-linen bush breakfast immediately after the balloon lands in the middle of the savannah
- Bisate Lodge: award-winning spherical thatched forest villas on the edge of the Virunga gorilla habitat
- Hot-air balloon over the Virunga Massif and private Intore warrior dance — two of Rwanda's most powerful experiences

The Maasai Mara at dawn from a balloon, cross-border to Rwanda, gorilla trekking at Bisate, and the Intore warrior dance

The Itinerary

01

NAIROBI

Day 1 | Nairobi — The Safari Capital

VIP tarmac handling at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. private guide to The Hemingway's Nairobi or JW Marriott Executive Suite. Early arrivals: the Karen Blixen Museum — historic home of the "Out of Africa" author set in lush gardens with Ngong Hills views — and the Giraffe Centre, sanctuary for endangered Rothschild's giraffes fed at eye level. Elegant welcome dinner and cross-border expedition briefing.

- Hemingway's Nairobi »
- Dinner

02

MAASAI MARA

Day 2 | Private Fly-In to the Maasai Mara — Escarpment Sundowner

Private charter from Wilson Airport west over the Great Rift Valley to a private Maasai Mara airstrip. Spectacular flight over Rift Valley escarpments and volcanic lakes. Check-in at ultra-exclusive Angama Mara or Mara Plains Camp perched on the Oloololo Escarpment. Late afternoon private game drive. Chilled champagne and canapés from a private safari bar on the escarpment edge as the vast Mara plains turn deep orange.

- Angama Mara »
- Breakfast, Dinner

03

MAASAI MARA

Day 3 | Mara River & Predator Tracking — Reed Boma Bonfire Dinner

Full-day tracking safari across the Maasai Mara — unhurried off-road tracking of massive lion prides, leopards in riverine trees, and cheetahs on open plains. The historic Mara River with giant crocodiles and hippos. Migration season (July–October): 1.5 million wildebeest crossing the plains. Elegant multi-course bonfire dinner in a traditional open-air reed boma lit by hundreds of floating lanterns with a roaring central fire pit.

- Angama Mara »
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

04

MAASAI MARA

Day 4 | Floating Over the Savanna — Bush Feast in the Grassland

Rising before dawn for a hot-air balloon over the Mara plains — watching wildlife kick up morning dust from above, golden light illuminating the vast landscape. After landing: a white-linen gourmet breakfast with live-cooking chef set up in an open grassland clearing. Afternoon: private game drive visiting riverine forests where leopards are often spotted. Crowd-free viewing in Africa's most celebrated wildlife reserve.

- Angama Mara »
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

05

KIGALI

Day 5 | Kigali — The Cleanest Capital — Genocide Memorial & Inema Art

Final morning game drive and breakfast. Private charter back to Nairobi then short regional flight to Kigali. VIP tarmac handling on arrival in Rwanda. Transfer to The Retreat by Heaven. Afternoon: private tour of the moving Kigali Genocide Memorial with a private historian. Curated tour of the Inema Arts Center: vibrant contemporary Rwandan canvas art. Welcome dinner at the hotel.

- The Retreat by Heaven »
- Breakfast, Dinner

06

KIGALI

Day 6 | Palace Architecture Walk & Mount Kigali Sundowner

Relaxed morning exploring Kigali's historic architectural landmarks and high-end design houses with a private guide. St. Michel Cathedral, Parliament Buildings, the striking Kigali Convention Centre. Private viewing at a high-end Rwandan fashion house. Premium wine and botanical infusions on a private terrace on Mount Kigali as sunset casts golden light over Rwanda's thousand hills.

- The Retreat by Heaven »
- Breakfast, Dinner

07

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Day 7 | Helicopter to Bisate — Virunga Volcanic Range Arrival

Private scenic helicopter flight over terraced green hills to Volcanoes National Park. Rwanda's patchwork of terraced farms and the dramatic volcanic Virunga peaks rising in the distance. Check-in at the legendary Bisate Lodge: luxurious spherical thatched forest villas blending seamlessly into the volcanic landscape. Breathtaking volcano and misty forest views. Gourmet dinner at the lodge.

- Bisate Lodge »
- Breakfast, Dinner

08

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Day 8 | Mountain Gorilla Trekking — Bamboo Forest Breakfast

Rising before dawn for private guided Mountain Gorilla Trekking through misty ancient bamboo forests with elite trackers. The life-changing moment: coming face-to-face with a magnificent Silverback gorilla family, spending an unforgettable hour just metres away — observing behaviour, family dynamics, and the sheer power of these gentle giants. On return: white-linen gourmet breakfast in an open bamboo forest clearing for reflection.

- Bisate Lodge »
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

09

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Day 9 | Golden Monkey Balloon Flight — Bisate Villa Bonfire Dinner

Rising before dawn for a hot-air balloon over the jagged Virunga volcanic peaks — cloud forests catching the first morning light. After landing: champagne toast and gourmet bush breakfast. Afternoon: private trek through the high bamboo canopies viewing endangered Golden Monkeys leaping through the branches. Elegant Rwandan-fusion bonfire dinner around a stone fire pit on your villa's private deck.

- Bisate Lodge »
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY BY DAY (CONTINUED)

10

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Day 10 | Twin Lakes Archipelago & Dian Fossey Campus

Private 4x4 drive to the deep blue Twin Lakes — Burera and Ruhondo — surrounded by terraced hills with majestic volcanoes behind. Private luxury speed boat cruising past terraced shorelines and fishing villages. Private picnic on the water. Afternoon: private crowd-free tour of the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund — state-of-the-art gorilla conservation exhibits and the inspiring recovery story.

- Bisate Lodge »
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

11

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Day 11 | King's Palace & Intore Warrior Dance — Grand Bisate Bonfire Farewell

Travel south to Nyanza for the historic King's Palace Museum: traditional domed palace architecture and the sacred long-horned Inyambo royal cattle accompanied by lyrical poetry. Dignified exchange with cattle keepers. Private performance of the powerful leaping Intore warrior dance — Rwanda's most vibrant cultural expression. Celebratory multi-course farewell bonfire dinner on the main lodge deck under the stars.

- Bisate Lodge »
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

12

NAIROBI

Day 12 | Return to Nairobi — JW Marriott Opulence

Relaxed luxury breakfast watching the mist lift off the volcanic slopes. Road transfer to Kigali Airport. Regional flight back to Nairobi. private guide to the JW Marriott Hotel Nairobi — five-star city sanctuary. Relaxed afternoon with premium hotel amenities. High-end spa session. Final celebratory multi-course dinner at the fine-dining restaurant.

- JW Marriott Nairobi »
- Breakfast, Dinner

DAY BY DAY (CONTINUED)

13

NAIROBI

Day 13 | Smooth International Departure from Nairobi

Final luxury breakfast at the JW Marriott. Private guided Nairobi tour if missed on Day 1 — Karen Blixen Museum, Giraffe Centre, high-end art galleries. High-end African art and crafts purchase opportunity. private guide to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for your international flight home.

- Breakfast

INVESTMENT

Pricing & Inclusions

PER PERSON SHARING

\$15,800

SINGLE TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT

On Request

Price per person based on two guests sharing. All charter flights, regional cross-border flight, gorilla permits, accommodation, two balloon flights, meals, and activities included. International flights to Nairobi not included.

SEASONAL PRICING

Jan – May	BEST VALUE	\$14,550
Wetter trails, lower gorilla permit demand		
May – Sep	PEAK SEASON	\$17,700
Prime dry season for gorilla trekking		
Sep – Dec	SHOULDER SEASON	\$15,800
Short rains, good trekking conditions return		

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- » VIP meet and greet at Kigali International Airport
- » All private helicopter and chauffeur transfers as specified
- » Luxury lodge and hotel accommodation throughout
- » All meals as specified
- » All private guided tours and activities listed
- » All park fees and gorilla trekking permits where applicable
- » Hot-air balloon flight where specified
- » Complementary spa session on final day
- » Private guide and historian throughout
- » Private charter Nairobi » Maasai Mara and return
- » Hot-air balloon sunrise over the Maasai Mara
- » Gourmet open grassland bush breakfast after Mara balloon
- » Reed boma bonfire dinner in the Maasai Mara

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to/from Rwanda
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal shopping
- Premium alcohol beyond inclusions
- Optional activities not listed
- Tips and gratuities
- International flights to/from Kenya

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

Tell us what you have in mind.

This itinerary is a starting point, not a fixed departure. The pace, the lodges, the length, the dates and the party travelling can all be reshaped around you.

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The East African Rift Expedition