

# Touch the Wild

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## The Maasai Mara

### Serenity out of Season

#### **The Photographic Tour**

I will be leading various small group (maximum 8 people) Photographic Tours from March to June 2016. Join me on a scheduled departure, or contact me for a privately guided tailor-made tour. Or if you prefer to travel independently with one of our very knowledgeable guides then also get in touch. Contact me for dates and details. With Touch the Wild we will travel in landcruisers, with pop up roofs and wind down windows for easy photographic opportunities. I will split my time between vehicles to advise and help with any photographic needs.

The itinerary for this trip is as follows:

#### **Day 1**

Pick up from Nairobi Serena Hotel. (Please note that Serena will be included in the cost of your trip for the night before your safari and the night your safari ends) Additional nights can be booked if required. We will have a morning briefing in the Serena Hotel and then will start our drive to Narok. On the way we will stop at the Great Rift valley view point for photographs and souvenirs. We will drive past small towns and villages and see some beautiful and colourful Kenyan landscapes. When we reach Narok, we will have lunch. We will continue on our way to Maasai Mara and arrive late afternoon. We will drive directly to Keekerok Lodge which will be our home for the next 2 nights. Dinner and Overnight at Keekerok. Please Note there is a fly in option available at an additional cost. The drive is very picturesque with lots to see, the colourful maasai, the small towns, beautiful scenery, wildlife by the side of the road. However the road is very bumpy and dusty and can the journey time is around 7 hours.

#### **Day 2 – 3**

After an early breakfast we will set out to explore Maasai Mara. The first 2 days we will spend away from the river looking for the big cats, there are 3 or 4 large lion prides close to Keekerok which are regularly seen. There are also several leopard territories and cheetah sightings in this area are also fantastic. The area is also very good for elephants, buffalo and giraffe. Generally we will rise early to make the most of the coolest time of day, when the predators are at their most active, we will stay out for as long as we need, looking for all of the key species that we have come here to photograph, then we will return to our lodge where there will be time to rest and relax following lunch, when the sun is at its highest and relatively little wildlife is stirring. Heading out once again in the mid to late afternoon, we have an opportunity to see the day's other period of transition as the sun drops and nocturnal species start to emerge. It's at this time that most predators start to become active again rising after relaxing in the shade.

We can be flexible with the above itinerary and can go out before breakfast and return for a late breakfast and stay in the lodge until after lunch. Or if the sightings are good and the group want to we can leave after an early

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breakfast and spend full days in the reserve with a packed lunch, we will review and discuss this as a group daily and can make arrangements to suit everyone's needs. Dinner and Overnight at Keekerok.

### Day 4 – 5

After an early breakfast we will drive towards the Mara River and cross in to the Mara Triangle. We will take a leisurely drive along the river looking for hippos and crocodiles and any photographic opportunities that they may bring. We will spend the day around by the river whilst checking other areas nearby for other species. All our vehicles are fitted with radios so that we can react to any nearby sightings. We will drive to Serena Lodge for Dinner and Overnight. Serena will be our home for the next 2 nights. Day 5 will combine river drives and various other locations in the Mara Triangle. We will review sightings every night and discuss as a group plans for the next day.

### Day 6

We will leave after an early breakfast and take our packed lunches. We will explore the Tallek region of Maasai Mara and spend a large part of the day in this area before driving back to Keekerok where we will spend the night.

### Day 7

We will get up early and do a short early morning drive. We will return to the lodge and have breakfast. We will pack and then leave for our drive back to Nairobi. We will make numerous stops on the way to break up the journey. Overnight will be in Serena. We suggest to everyone that they use the option to stay in Nairobi on this evening and book their return flight the following day.

## Prices Available on Request.

### The price includes

- 2 nights accommodation in Nairobi Serena Hotel. Bed and breakfast only.
- 4 nights accommodation in Keekerok. Full Board
- 2 nights accommodation in Serena Lodge. Full Board
- All meals whilst on safari.
- All park fees and government taxes.
- Transport in landcruiser (as described)
- All services from tour driver/guide.
- All services from photographic guide.
- Bottled Water whilst on safari

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## The price excludes

- Any flights
- Tips and Gratuities
- Maasai Village Visit (Available on day 1 or day 7)
- Balloon Flights (Available on days 2 – 7)
- Any drinks other than water.
- Travel Insurance.

To book a place we require an agreed deposit paid at time of booking. The balance is paid 2 months before departure. Monthly no interest payment scheme available on request,