

# Kenya Private Journey

SAFARI IN SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE AND THE FAMED MASAI MARA



## WHEN TO GO

June to October

For our Private Journey trips, you choose your own group and your preferred dates—there are no set departure dates. Private Journeys are available to groups as few as two people or as large as you like. Contact us for availability, questions, or to book your adventure!



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## Kenya Private Journey

### SAFARI IN SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE AND THE FAMED MASAI MARA

In two world-renowned game reserves in Kenya, the land where safaris were born, savor phenomenal Big Five game viewing with expert naturalists and enjoy the comforts of splendid game lodges that keep you close to the wildlife. In Samburu National Reserve, you'll look for Kenya's unique northern species, meet Samburu warriors, and watch elephants bathing in the river right from your camp. In the breathtaking beauty of the Masai Mara National Reserve, you'll revel in the super-abundance of wildlife in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem, with its leopards, cheetahs, magnificent black-maned lions, and migratory herds. If you've been looking for the perfect experience of Kenya's magic, this is it! This trip is ideal for families, with significant discounts for children under 12. Our Zanzibar Extension and Gorilla Tracking Extension are wonderful additions to the adventure.

#### ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—even if it's just the two of you—yet still enjoy a guided adventure.



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# Itinerary

This Private Journey uses a combination of hotels, exclusive lodges, and private camps. These properties are often reserved well in advance. We urge you to make your reservation as early as possible to ensure availability on your preferred dates.

## DAY 1

### ARRIVE IN NAIROBI, KENYA

Arrive at Nairobi Airport, where you are met for a transfer to your hotel, the House of Waine. Meals on your own.

Optional Upgrade: Giraffe Manor

See Lodging section for photos and descriptions

## DAY 2

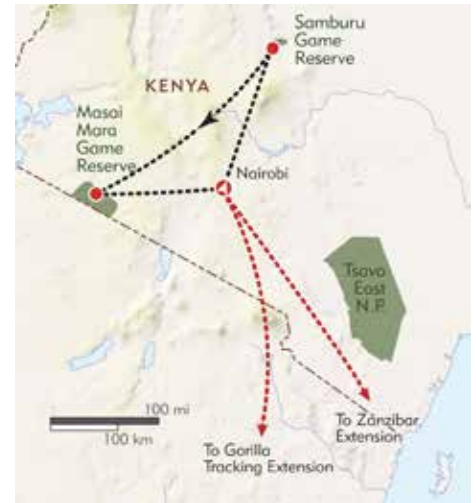
### NAIROBI / SPECIAL "SPONSOR" VISIT TO DAVID SHELDRIK WILDLIFE TRUST

Meet your private city guide for a full day of exploration that includes the Karen Blixen Museum, once the home and farm of the author of *Out of Africa*, and the Giraffe Center, where you can see (and even feed) the giraffes who are cared for here. Lunch is at the Utamaduni Craft Center, one of the best crafts markets in Nairobi. Late in the afternoon, you'll enjoy a special "Sponsor" visit to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust—Elephant Nursery, a highly regarded conservation organization named for the famous naturalist who was the founding warden of Tsavo East National Park. Your visit allows you the privilege of visiting the elephant nursery by appointment at 5:00 pm, when the baby elephants return to their stockades for the night. Watching these young elephants interact with their keepers is a delightful and photogenic experience. The Trust is the most successful orphan-elephant rescue and rehabilitation program in the world and a pioneer in wildlife and habitat protection in East Africa. Overnight at hotel...BLD

## DAY 3

### SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

Transfer to Nairobi's Wilson Airport this morning for a one-hour flight north via Nanyuki to the semi-desert realm of Samburu in northern Kenya. On arrival, head to your wonderfully located camp for lunch, followed by an afternoon game drive in your open-sided 4WD vehicle in a magnificent landscape of red earth and palm-fringed, cocoa-brown rivers. Samburu's landscape is stunning and sensual, with its iconic Ololokwe Mountain, craggy terrain, clusters of duom palms, and the wide Ewaso Nyiro River coursing through it. The river is the biggest in northern Kenya, and in Samburu's arid landscape, it assures that the wildlife is plentiful. Dozens of species gather in the thick acacia and duom palm forests that flank the river's edge to drink and enjoy the shade. Elephants roam Samburu, along with the big cats, and here you can look for six special big game species rarely seen anywhere else: Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, Somali ostrich, gerenuk, Geunther's dik-dik, and Beisa oryx. Samburu is also home to the traditional Samburu people, semi-nomadic



## TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

<b>Length:</b>	8 days
<b>Arrive:</b>	Nairobi, Kenya
<b>Depart:</b>	Nairobi, Kenya
<b>Lodging:</b>	3 nights hotels, 4 nights safari camps
<b>Meals:</b>	All meals included (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
<b>Activity:</b>	Safaris, Wildlife and Natural History
<b>Trip Level:</b>	1 2 3 4 5 6 Gameviewing by open 4WD vehicle, optional game walks

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet the orphaned baby elephants at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
- Track rare northern species in the true wilderness of Samburu National Reserve
- Explore the legendary Masai Mara, home to the greatest collection of terrestrial wildlife on earth
- Unique activities: walking safaris, night game drives, stargazing, cultural visits with the Samburu and Masai people
- Exclusive safari camps that keep you close to the wildlife

# Itinerary (cont'd)

pastoralists who mainly herd cattle but also keep sheep, goats, and camels. They are related to but distinct from the Masai. Overnight at Elephant Bedroom Camp...BLD



## DAY 4

### SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

Enjoy a full day of game viewing in open-sided 4WD vehicles at Samburu. Big blue skies, red earth, and steep volcanic mountains make Samburu National Reserve a place of rare beauty. Shaded by an exquisite landscape of yellow-barked fever trees and lush groves of doum palms, the river is a favorite watering spot for elephants, dusted red from Samburu's iron-rich soil. It also supports a large variety of other wildlife and birdlife and is an important elephant migration corridor. In addition to game viewing, you can enjoy guided bush walks, cultural visits, bush breakfasts/dinner, a picnic lunch, sundowners, and lectures on Samburu culture by resident naturalist. Overnight at camp...BLD

## DAY 5

### MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

A scenic flight of about 90 minutes brings you over the Great Rift Valley from Samburu down to the Masai Mara, where you head to your camp, arriving in time for lunch. Later, an afternoon game drive brings you deep into this world-renowned reserve. At an altitude of 5,000 feet and some 583 square miles in area, the Mara is simply breathtaking, with the wide Mara River snaking through its rich, tree-studded grasslands that shelter abundant wildlife. This famous river is full of hippos, and enormous groups of elephant wander through the rich marshes along its edge. Buffalo graze in the Mara in abundance, baboons leap through the brush, and solitary leopards survey from their perches in acacia trees. Overnight at Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp, set on a private Masai-owned concession adjacent to the reserve. The Kichwa Tembo concession is the only place where you can experience night game drives in the Masai Mara. As the sun sinks over the vast horizon, the African bush comes to life with predators and other nocturnal creatures. You may have the opportunity to observe fascinating species not normally encountered in daylight. Kichwa Tembo also offers several nature trails, cultural visits with the Maasai, and the opportunity to take a morning balloon safari...BLD



Optional Upgrade: Mara Ngenche Camp.

In addition to game viewing from this camp, you can enjoy cultural visits including entertainment by Maasai warriors and lectures on Maasai culture by a resident naturalist.

## DAYS 6-7

### MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

The Mara offers fantastic game viewing throughout the year, and especially during the seasonal wildebeest migration, July-October. Resident lion

prides hold and defend territories, and the open grasslands provide ideal hunting terrain for cheetah, the planet's fastest land mammal. Large resident populations of antelope including topi, Thomson's gazelle, and Grant's gazelle can be found roaming the savanna. Blue monkey and red-tailed monkey live in the evergreen forests, while troops of banded mongoose patrol the savanna and woodlands. Large pods of hippo are found in the Mara River, and the birdlife is phenomenal, with 453 recorded species, including the impressive martial eagle, long-crested eagle, and massive bateleur dominating the skies.

After an early breakfast today, head out into the Mara by 4WD vehicle for an exciting game drive. You'll return to camp for a delicious lunch and time to refresh, then in the late afternoon, a prime time for wildlife activity, explore again by 4WD vehicle in another habitat. After sundowners at a scenic spot or back in camp, enjoy dinner while you talk about the wildlife experiences of the day and learn about the ecosystem and its animals from your expert guide. In addition to game drives, interpretive bush walks are available, led by a highly skilled guide and traditionally attired Masai naturalists. Overnights at camp... BLD each day

#### DAY 8 NAIROBI / DEPART

A scenic flight across the Mara brings you back to Nairobi, where a day room will be held for you here until your evening departure for the airport...BLD

Please note: Since this is a Private Journey, it is possible for you to add additional nights at another camp in the Mara, if you wish, or to fly from the Mara to the Serengeti in Tanzania. Call our office for details!



# Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

## TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, valid through 2024**

\$8595 (4-6 members)

\$8795 (2-3 members)

Single supplement: \$2190

Internal airfare: \$890 (subject to change)

*Prices are based on double occupancy and not guaranteed until services are confirmed.*

### **Make it Your Trip!**

The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, offer hotel upgrades (see below for sample costs), or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

### **Optional Hotel Upgrades**

*All upgrade pricing is per person, per night, based on double occupancy. Please call for single occupancy pricing.*

Nairobi: Giraffe Manor, from \$850

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Accommodations, based on double occupancy
- All meals as noted in Detailed Itinerary
- Services of safari guides and camp staff
- 4WD safari vehicles
- Land and internal air transportation as noted
- All airport transfers

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, any activities described as optional, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas; and other expenses of a personal nature.

## SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Africa Manager or email [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com) with any questions that you may have about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation	25%
90 days prior to departure	Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: 25% of trip cost

90 days or less: 100% of trip cost\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance)

# Extend Your Adventure!

To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our *Kenya Private Journey* webpage and click on the "Extensions" tab: [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/kenya/kenya-private-journey/extensions](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/kenya/kenya-private-journey/extensions)

## GORILLA TRACKING IN RWANDA'S PARC NATIONAL DES VOLCANS EXTENSION

Join your ranger-guide for the exhilarating experience of tracking and observing the mountain gorilla clans that reside in the spectacular montane forests of Parc National des Volcans, where researcher Dian Fossey was based for 13 years. The hiking terrain ranges in altitude from 3,800 to 8,500 feet and preserves one of the largest natural forests in East Africa.

*5 days. From \$3095, plus \$3000 for 2 gorilla trek permits.*

## ZANZIBAR EXTENSION

Just 22 miles off the coast of Tanzania lies the spice-scented isle of Zanzibar, with its ancient Swahili-Arab culture. For centuries, the Sultans of Oman ruled this tiny island and the Arabic influence is still very strong. Snorkeling, diving, bicycling, windsurfing, and the amenities of the resort's spa are just a few of the many optional activities available. Accommodations in Stone Town are at the Serena Inn; on Days 2-3, enjoy the relaxing atmosphere and the sounds and sights of the Indian Ocean with a stay at The Palms or upgrade to the elegant Baraza Resort and Spa. Early booking is recommended due to limited availability.

*4 days. From \$2195.*



# Lodging

## DAYS 1 TO 3 (3 NIGHTS): NAIROBI, KENYA

In Nairobi, we stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:



### HOUSE OF WAINE

In the leafy suburb of Karen, this 11-room colonial-style manor has spacious rooms, wonderful gardens, and a swimming pool. The service is friendly and welcoming, and it's an oasis of comfort after long flight. Breakfast or afternoon tea in the lovely garden or by the pool is delightful.



### GIRAFFE MANOR (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

A stay at Giraffe Manor is a delightful experience you won't find anywhere else. This luxury boutique hotel is the home base for a herd of friendly Rothschild's giraffes that love to peer in your bedroom window or wait for handouts at the breakfast table (and giraffe kisses are a must). Built in 1932 and patterned after a Scottish hunting lodge, the hotel retains its 1930s elegance and offers 10 guest rooms with large four-poster beds, antique furnishings, and spacious bathrooms. Advance booking for Giraffe Manor is highly recommended.

## DAYS 3 TO 4 (2 NIGHTS): SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE, KENYA



### ELEPHANT BEDROOM CAMP

Set along the Ewaso Nyiro River and surrounded by doum palms and riverine forest, this small and exclusive camp has 12 luxury tents set high on stilt platforms. The spacious tents have rustic and colorful African touches and offer all the comforts, including a private plunge pool on the deck, hot and cold running water, electricity (and complimentary herbal shower and bath products.). The camp's lounge and dining area, decorated with vibrant safari style, is the place to relax in between exciting game drives. Elephant, monkey, and impala are among the camp's many regular wild visitors. Breakfast and lunch are served 'al fresco' on the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River under the shade of the trees (weather permitting). Dinner is served in the dining area, and private meals can be arranged on the guest tent veranda or under the stars.



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## DAYS 5 TO 7 (3 NIGHTS): MASAI MARA, KENYA

In Masai Mara, we stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:



### KICHWA TEMBO TENTED CAMP

This tented camp has a prime location, fabulous food (with ingredients from the organic garden), and an amazing, well-trained staff. Forty tents with en suite facilities and private verandas are nicely set around the property and resident warthogs graze right outside your front door. After an exhilarating game drive, take a dip in the swimming pool, with its jaw-dropping views of the Masai Mara plains and, with luck, occasional giraffe or buffalo in the distance.



### MARA NGENCHE CAMP (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

This beautiful camp has a spectacular location in the heart of the Mara reserve at the convergence of its two main rivers—the Mara and the Talek, home to a huge population of hippo and crocodiles. Each tent is partially enclosed in its own "boma," has a large four-poster king size bed or two queen size beds, offers wonderful views of the river, and is equipped with a flush toilet, large bath tub, and outside shower. Mara Ngenche is unfenced and is designed to allow the exciting movement of animals through the grounds, offering an elegant yet relaxed atmosphere for experiencing the full adventure of the African bush. In addition, each tent has its own private plunge pool.

# Arrival & Departure

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## ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

Nairobi, Kenya, is the starting point for the trip. You will transfer from the airport to the hotel. On Day 7, you transfer to the Nairobi international airport for departure on international flights.

## FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

Trip members are responsible for making their own arrangements for air transportation. Please do not purchase your airline tickets until you are confirmed on the trip and have reviewed your proposed air schedule with our office. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so that we can send it on to the local guide (make sure to include your Trip Name and Trip Dates on it). Note: The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly; otherwise you may be denied boarding. Please remember this when reserving your flights. In addition, your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US (in most cases).

## Trip Details

### WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 2, according to the Wilderness Travel trip rating system. It is in hotels and safari camps with game viewing by 4WD vehicle. It can be enjoyed by anyone in reasonably good health. On safari, there are long driving days over rugged dirt tracks. Please note: Activities listed in the itinerary are property-specific. Not all activities are offered at every property. Please see the lodge descriptions for full details.

### WEATHER

December to March is East Africa's "summer" with daytime temperatures from 80°F-90°F and evenings from 50°F to 60°F. June, July, and August are the coolest months, with lows around 40°F and highs of 70°F-80°F. September, October, and November are warmer, with lows around 65°F and highs of 75°F-85°F. Scattered rains occur in November and early December, which help to lay the dust.

### THE GREAT MIGRATION

The annual wildebeest migration between the southern and northern portions of the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem is a wildlife spectacle with no equivalent anywhere else in Africa—or the world. It is estimated that up to 1.5 million wildebeest (accompanied by 200,000 gazelles and zebras) make the round-trip march each year, often traveling in single-file columns that stretch to the horizon. Only through migration can wildebeests take advantage of the

resources of the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem and maintain the vast numbers of their herds.

December through March: Enormous herds of wildebeest and zebra graze the rain-watered grasslands of Tanzania's Serengeti/Ngorongoro area during these months, when the plains are rich in fresh green grass. Wildebeest calving season is a six-week period between late January and mid-March. Newborn wildebeest calves stand up within minutes of their birth and within a few days can keep up with their mothers.

April and May: When the rains cease and the Serengeti grasses turn brown, the wildebeest turn west and head across the savanna toward Lake Victoria's woodlands, where the annual wildebeest rut occurs.

June: By the end of May, the wildebeest have run out of good grazing. The animals then turn north and set out on their long march to reach the grassy plains of the Masai Mara in Kenya, the northern end of the Serengeti ecosystem. The herds begin to congregate in the Mara in June, feasting on the tender new grass shoots produced by Kenya's April and May rains.

July through October: The wildebeest and zebra graze the short sweet grasses of the Masai Mara and the northern part of the Serengeti.

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November: The wildebeest herds turn south again and return to Tanzania's Serengeti, where their winter pastures are now refreshed and regrown green.

Please note that the Great Migration is a natural event and thus the timing varies from month to month and can change each year.

### WALKING IN PARKS AND RESERVES

You will be able to walk where it is possible (and at additional cost), but this is often determined by local area and government regulations. Please note that walking in these areas is at your own risk as it can bring you close to dangerous wildlife.

### PROTECTING THE SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM

Wilderness Travel is proud to be a founding member of Friends of Serengeti, which seeks to build support, advocacy, and funding for the Serengeti ecosystem in Tanzania and Kenya. Without our support, the Serengeti, Masai Mara, and surrounding protected areas are in danger of being lost forever. We believe the success of sustainable tourism will be the deciding factor in whether the Serengeti ecosystem will survive, and a key element is bringing tangible social and economic benefits from tourism to local people. You have the opportunity to make an optional donation to Friends of Serengeti at the time of your final payment. We also support other organizations in Africa, including the Jane Goodall Institute, the Cheetah Conservation Fund, and Save the Elephants.

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Africa Manager or email us at [africa@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:africa@wildernesstravel.com).

### REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

### ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—even if it's just the two of you—yet still enjoy a guided adventure.

### TOUCAN CLUB

Please note that Toucan Club discounts do not apply for our Private Journeys. However, your participation on these trips will count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular expeditions. For more information regarding our Toucan Club bonus program, please visit our website at [www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan).

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At [www.wildernesstravel.com](http://www.wildernesstravel.com), you can find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and special WT Expeditions that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access a complete library of our detailed itineraries and browse the customized reading guides for each of our adventures.

### HELPFUL LINKS

Wilderness Travel has compiled a list of useful websites for travelers. Find the Client Forms & Helpful Links page of our website: (<http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/links>).



## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 2021, 10-time winner

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2021 & 2020

**Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips:** *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *USA Today*, 2020

**Trip of the Year:** *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

**50 Tours of a Lifetime:** *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

**Best Adventure Travel Companies:** *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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