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## GEEO ITINERARY

Kenya

### **Day 1: Nairobi Arrive at any time.**

Arrive in Nairobi at any time. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in Africa at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference and overcome any jetlag. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Nairobi before and/or after the trip. Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

### **Day 2: Nairobi/Samburu National Reserve (B, L, D) Travel to Samburu National Reserve in time for an afternoon wildlife safari drive. Visit a Samburu village en route.**

Depart Nairobi and drive north through the farmlands of the Kikuyu people, passing Mount Kenya, Africa's second-highest mountain (17,000+ ft). Just outside the national reserve, meet the locals in a traditional village in the Samburu area and learn more about their way of life. The Samburu people are related to but culturally distinct from the Masai. Like the Masai, the Samburu are semi-nomadic and herd cattle, goats, and occasionally camels. The men often have multiple wives who each live in separate huts within a family compound. See how the beautiful colors of bead necklaces and bracelets, the red clay braids of the warriors, and their bright clothing contrast with the colors of the African savanna. Watch traditional Samburu dancing, and learn about Samburu tribal life and customs. The walk within the village is run by Samburu tribesmen for the benefit of the community. Continue to Samburu National Reserve, a wildlife haven for many species rarely found anywhere else. Enjoy an afternoon wildlife safari drive in search of African elephants, big cats, and some more unique wildlife found only in this northern region of Kenya. Approximate travel time: 7-8 hrs by safari vehicle

### **Day 3: Samburu National Reserve (B, L, D) Spend a full day on safari in search of Samburu's special five.**

Enjoy a full-day wildlife safari drive in search of animals such as the beisa (East African oryx), Somali ostrich, Grevy's zebra, the majestic reticulated giraffe, and the long-necked gerenuk, a graceful antelope that stands upright on its hind legs to feed on tall bushes.

### **Day 4: Samburu National Reserve/Lake Nakuru National Park (B, L, D) Descend into the Great Rift Valley enjoying stunning views of the escarpment on the way.**

Travel to Nakuru, meaning "dusty place" in the Maasai language. It is a cheerful and vibrant agricultural town with a variety of colorful local markets. Camp outside the town at the edge of Lake Nakuru National Park, the area's main natural attraction. Time and weather permitting, there may be an opportunity to visit a local tea farm and see how the tea is grown, picked, and produced. Approximate travel time: 7-8 hrs by safari vehicle

### **Day 5: Lake Nakuru National Park (B, L, D) Embark on a safari in Lake Nakuru National Park in search of elephants, buffalos, impalas, and the elusive leopard.**

Search for, buffalo, impalas, hyenas, and even lions and leopards on a wildlife safari drive in the

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renowned Lake Nakuru National Park. Head to the shores of the lake to see pelicans and cormorants. The park is also rich in other bird life, including grebes, white-winged black terns, stilts, avocets, and ducks.

**Day 6: Lake Nakuru National Park/Masai Mara (B, L, D) Travel to the Masai Mara National Reserve. Search for the Big Five on an afternoon wildlife safari drive.**

Depart for the world-famous Masai Mara National Reserve. Arrive in the afternoon and get settled at the permanent tented camp, our base for exploring the Mara. Head into the reserve for an afternoon wildlife safari drive and keep your eyes and ears peeled for movement and animal noises. With its vast open plains and distinctive flat-topped acacia trees, no visit to Kenya would be complete without a visit to this reserve. Masai Mara is one of the world's top safari destinations, known for its abundance of big cats—cheetahs, leopards, and lions—as well as the two million wildebeest, Thomson's gazelles, and zebras that migrate annually across the vast grasslands in search of water. Approximate travel time: 7-8 hrs by safari vehicle

**Day 7: Masai Mara (B, L, D) Enjoy a day on safari. Opt to take to the skies on a balloon safari.**

Go for a morning wildlife safari during the best time to spot animals, and crisscross the rolling hills of the African savanna. With a full day to explore the area, we can cover a lot of ground. If time allows, visit the Mara River area. Opt to rise before dawn and go for an hour-long balloon safari for a new perspective over the beautiful landscape. Fly over the Mara River, plains, and forests of the Masai Mara, and then toast your return to earth with a champagne breakfast when you land. If you pre-book the balloon safari, you will miss the morning wildlife safari drive with the group, but you will have spectacular views from above.

**Day 8: Masai Mara/Nairobi (B, L) Enjoy a final wildlife safari drive before the journey back to Nairobi.**

Enjoy one last opportunity to spot the Big Five, and then travel back to Nairobi. Along the way, visit the Ubuntu Café for lunch in the rural settlement of Maai Mahiu. A true social enterprise in the heart of Kenya, this initiative empowers the community, creating over 400 sustainable local jobs for mothers of children with disabilities, and supporting pediatric health and education programs in the region. Enjoy a delicious, organic farm-to-table lunch of quality coffee, breakfast tacos, soup, salad, freshly made pizzas, curry dishes, and burritos. Once you arrive in Nairobi, there will be some time to buy local handicrafts or check out a bit of the city. Approximate travel time: 5.5-6.5 hrs by safari vehicle

**Day 9: Nairobi (B) Depart any time.**

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Nairobi at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Nairobi, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book.