



Tropical Ice LTD.
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Kenya

Kilimanjaro and Beyond

A true adventure safari that follows the natural progression from the summit of Kilimanjaro to the shores of the Indian Ocean. When the adventure travel writer Rick Ridgeway joined Iain Allan and Tropical Ice on a walk from Kilimanjaro to the sea, the result was a best selling travel book called "The Shadow of Kilimanjaro". This safari visits the most exciting places of the original Kilimanjaro to the sea expedition.



REGIONAL DISCRPTIONS

AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

Framed by the silhouette of Kilimanjaro, Amboseli National Park provides a classical opportunity to view African wildlife. Amboseli's abundant bird life frequent the swamps fed by the melting mountain snows, and groups of elephant go there to drink, bathe, and apply a new layer of the grey Amboseli dust. Throughout the past 30 years Cynthia Moss and Joyce Poole have been studying these wonderful animals, revealing their intelligence and sensitivity, their complexity and grandeur. Our understanding of elephant behavior, social structure and communication comes as a direct result of these studies.

The Amboseli ecosystem is also traditional grazing pasture for the Maasai cattle. The successful cooperation of the Maasai people and the Kenya Wildlife Service has allowed these traditional people to coexist with the rich wildlife of the area. It is this Maasai land that we have chosen as the site for our seasonal camp. Far from the reaches of the tourist minibuses, we enjoy unobstructed views of the mountain, cool evening breezes and silver morning light.

KILIMANJARO

Africa's highest peak, and the worlds tallest free-standing mountain, Kilimanjaro dominates the sky at a height of 19,340 feet. The glaciers and snows of Kilimanjaro perplexed the European scientific community in the late nineteenth century. Johann Rebman, a German missionary who was the first European to lay eyes upon it in 1848 wrote on 11th of May " *This morning, at ten o'clock, we obtained a*

clearer view of the mountains of Jagga (Chagga), the summit of one of which was covered by what looked like a beautiful white cloud.” It was only when Baron Von der Decken reached the altitude of 14,000 feet in his 1862 attempt on the mountain that indisputable evidence satisfied the indignant scientists. The first successful ascent of Kilimanjaro by Dr. Hans Meyer in 1890 brought to a close the enduring struggle for this prized peak of East Africa.

Kilimanjaro is comprised of three volcanic centers: Kibo (19,340 feet), Mawenzi (16,893 feet) and Shira (13,143 feet). The Chagga people living at the foot of this mountain tell many legends of its more active volcanic days. Today it lies dormant, casting its shadow over the plains below, its melting snows quenching the thirst of Amboseli’s wildlife. Scientists predict that the glaciers of Kilimanjaro will disappear within the next twenty years, unfortunately this time they are probably correct.

TSAVO NATIONAL PARK

Tropical Ice’s roots may be firmly embedded in East Africa’s great snowcapped mountains, but our soul lies in the vast wild spaces of Tsavo. For over 20 years we have been operating foot safaris down the remote rivers of this huge 8,300 square mile national park - the biggest in Africa.

Tsavo’s unique wilderness gives us a chance to take our visitors back into an Africa that existed over 100 years ago, a region which has been able to withstand the encroachment of the so-called civilized world.

Writing in *National Geographic Adventure* (June 2000), Philip Caputo wrote:

“Iain loves Tsavo - the dense palm and saltbush forests of the river valleys, the endless red and khaki plains. Africa without any fat on it, he called it. It’s raw and primitive and doesn’t tolerate mistakes.

The Galana, fed by the melting snows on Kilimanjaro, showed a brassy brown, as it slid slowly between galleries of saltbush and doum palm toward its distant meeting with the Indian Ocean. Beyond the river, the scorched plains rose and fell, seemingly without end. And on a far-off ridge, we saw one of Africa’s primitive, elemental sights - a procession of elephants, raising dust as they migrated to the river to drink and cool themselves in the midday heat.

We had the whole immense wild to ourselves.... What a difference to observe game animals on their own terms. To photograph them, we had to read the wind as a hunter does, practicing stealth and watching for the slightest motion. We stalked up close to a band of Cape buffalo and a small elephant herd, and the experience was far more satisfying than driving up to them. Sweating, exercising caution and bush-craft, we

earned the right to bag them on film. After lunch and a welcome afternoon siesta, we game drive the final few hours of daylight, when the sandy beaches of the Galana glow golden in the setting."

Phil Caputo, National Geographic Adventure

INDIAN OCEAN

Tropical Ice has never tried to interest our visitors in a beach holiday. It's just not really our scene. Besides, the beaches of the Caribbean, Australia, and parts of southern Europe are probably as good as beaches can ever be. Having said this however, the coastline of East Africa, possesses a magic you will find nowhere else in the world, and we believe it should be experienced. Visit our coast and you will step back through time into an ancient culture. The Kenya coast is spiced with the flavors of the Indian Ocean. The seafaring peoples around its periphery have mingled their blood and traditions with those of the Bantu peoples of the sub-Saharan Africa, creating the unique Swahili culture that survives to the present.

Help us celebrate TROPICAL ICE's 25th anniversary year..... TROPICAL ICE has been guiding groups up Kilimanjaro since 1978 – our summit success rate is over 95%.

Which route do we climb?

- Approximately 20,000 people attempt Kilimanjaro every year. 15,000 do it by way of the tourist route from Marangu, Tanzania, and most of the remainder attempt it from Machame, Tanzania. TROPICAL ICE finds these routes way too congested, and instead we traverse the mountain up the remote northern slopes from Kenya, over the summit, and descend into Tanzania.

What's so special about our route?

- It is not as steep as either the Machame Route or the Shira Plateau Route. Our trail crosses some of Kilimanjaro's most beautiful country and takes us beneath the spectacular "forgotten" peak of Kilimanjaro - Mawenzi (16,899 feet); our third camp is situated directly beneath it's dramatic north face.
- Few people.... the chances are high that the first time you will see another tourist on the mountain will be on the 5th day, when our trail converges with other routes just below the summit.
- **ACCLIMATISATION:** A subject TROPICAL ICE regards as very, very important. Our route allows for an extra acclimatisation day at 13,600 feet (our camp below Mawenzi).

What don't we do on Kilimanjaro?

- We don't sleep in huts. We prefer to be in clean, healthy tents.

- We don't camp in Kilimanjaro's crater. TROPICAL ICE feels this is a dangerous and unnecessary thing to do. To sleep over 18,000 feet after being on the mountain for a week or less is breaking every rule of acclimatisation.

Kilimanjaro and Beyond

DETAILED ITINERARY

- Day 1:** You will be met at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi and transferred to the Karen Blixen Inn. This very atmospheric inn is located on the farm that once belonged to Karen Blixen, amongst her many other accomplishments she was the author of *Out of Africa* which was made into a major motion picture in 1985.
- The rest of the day can be spent at your leisure. A Tropical Ice courtesy vehicle and driver/guide will be available for visits to and around Nairobi. Evening briefing with your guide at the hotel. Overnight at the Karen Blixen Inn.
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- Day 2:** Drive from Nairobi to Amboseli National Park with a picnic lunch en route, a game drive through the park may reveal Kilimanjaro peering through the clouds. The park is home to a healthy elephant population, you are also likely to see lion, cape buffalo, a variety of plains game, and countless species of birds.
- After the game drive, we come to our private camp situated within the Amboseli ecosystem. This camp is not only a welcoming oasis for us, but also serves to incorporate the Masai people in working towards preserving their pristine land for wildlife and visitors. Overnight in our camp.
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- Day 3:** Early morning game drive will unveil a completely unique view of the park and its wildlife. We will look for traces of the previous night's activity, as well as explore further into the park. We return to camp for lunch and a siesta. In the afternoon we may embark on a short walk and sort gear for the mountain.
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- Day 4:** Drive to the roadhead, passing through the border into Tanzania. After a picnic lunch we begin the hike up through Kilimanjaro's lower forests, this will take up the entire afternoon. Our first camp is located at 8,000 feet, just above the tree line.
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- Day 5:** This is a long hiking day that will take us on a traverse across the northern moorlands of the mountain. We will have a hot lunch along the way. In the afternoon, our trail will gently rise towards the northern shoulder of the second highest peak, Mawenzi. We will reach our camp at an altitude of 11,800 feet late in the afternoon.
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- Day 6:** This is essentially an acclimatisation day. A short hike directly up to our campsite brings us to the base the north face of Mawenzi. The rest of the day will be spent relaxing in camp, with the possibility of an afternoon acclimatisation hike in the vicinity of the camp. Altitude of the camp is 13,600 feet.
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Day 7: After breakfast we begin the long morning hike across “The Saddle” which links Mawenzi to the summit peak of Kilimanjaro, Kibo. The crossing of this moon-like landscape will take the entire morning. The Outward Bound Camp, at an altitude of 15,600 feet, will be reached in mid afternoon. The rest of the afternoon will be spent in the camp preparing for our attempt on the summit.

Day 8: This is the longest day of the ascent. We will be awakened at around midnight and shortly afterwards you will begin the long climb to the crater rim of Kilimanjaro. This 2-mile journey will take approximately 6 hours to complete. Reaching the crater rim at Gilman’s Point (18,600 feet) as the sun begins to rise. We will then continue clockwise around the crater to the highest point on the African continent, Uhuru Peak 19,340 feet. Weather permitting the summit should be attained at around 9.00 a.m. We then descend to Kibo Hut for lunch. The Saddle is then crossed in the afternoon, as we descend to our evening destination, our camp near Horombo Hut at 12,000 feet.

Day 9: We descend the southern moorlands of Kilimanjaro which will take the entire morning and most of the afternoon. We will reach the National Park headquarters at Marangu in the late afternoon, thus completing our traverse of Kilimanjaro. We then drive for a short distance to the Kibo Hotel where we spend the night.

Day 10: Crossing the Kenya-Tanzania border, we drive from the border town of Taveta to the Voi Gate of Tsavo East National Park. After a picnic lunch, we slowly drive towards the northeastern portion of the park, making our way into one of the most pristine places in Africa. Arrive at our private camp on the Galana River before dark.

Day 11: We are now in one of the most remote wilderness areas of East Africa, in a world of stunning beauty. To see a herd of elephants, silently loping across the sand to the rivers edge then wading through the blue water to the distant shore, is a sight that can’t be improved.

We rise with first light, and after breakfast we begin our foot safari in the vast 8,300 square mile wilderness that is Tsavo. Our route closely follows the Galana River, flanked by rich riverine vegetation, as we walk along hippo trails winding their way through thickets of fig and tamarind trees, doum and *raffia* palms.

We feel that the afternoon game-drives are an essential part of this safari. The river sparkles in the rich golden light of the late afternoon, and wildlife can easily be seen. Overnight in our camp.

Day 12: During the past few years, Tropical Ice has been conducting our own Galana River lion research project. We are the only people working in this region, and our experiences with lion contacts whilst walking, has enabled us to assist in unraveling some of the mysteries surrounding the lions of this area. And there are many unanswered questions. Why are most of the male lions maneless? Why do the male lions seem to do most of the hunting (this is usually the role of the female)? Why do these Galana River lions display more aggression than lions in other parts of Africa (remember the Maneaters of Tsavo - they were two maneless male lions)?

Our research project has been mainly involved in pride identification, recording numbers within each pride, and pride movements (how far do they range?). We have now amassed a considerable amount of information, and have developed a good idea of where the lions of the Galana are located from month to month.

As our foot safari continues down the Galana River, it is highly likely we'll be able to make contact with some of these lions.

In the late morning we meet our vehicle and return to camp for lunch. After lunch and a rest we enjoy a late afternoon game drive down the Galana. As the sun sets, lion prides frequently emerge from the surrounding salt bush onto the wide sandy beaches fringing the river. Our evening campfire on the sandy beach of the Galana is an excellent way to end a very satisfying day. Overnight in our camp.

Day 13: After an early breakfast we board our vehicles and make the three-hour drive to the Indian Ocean. We generally follow the Galana River for most of the way, passing charming Giriama villages crowded with bananas and palms. Arrive at the palm-fringed Indian Ocean, where we stay on one of the best beaches in Kenya, Hemingways Hotel on the Watamu Bay.

Day 14: This is a good opportunity to relax after our adventures in the bush. As the lull of the ocean breeze attempts to wash away the memories of the mountain, we must not forget the historic and natural value of the coastal region itself. A snorkeling excursion to the Marine National Park or a walk through the lovely forest and archaeological site of the Gede ruins, an old Swahili town that was destroyed by the Zimba cannibals in the 15th century, are two of many excellent ways of spending a day on your own.

A festive farewell dinner marks a celebration of the time we spent together in Kenya. Overnight in Hemigways Hotel.

Day 15: Dayroom at the Hemingways Hotel. Early afternoon flight to Nairobi. Dinner on your own. Evening transfer to the airport for departure on homeward-bound flights.

Please feel free to e-mail us for reservations.