

# 12 Days Kenya Big Cats Photographic Safari

📍 Masai Mara



This 12-day photographic safari focuses on Kenya's legendary predators. It combines three of the Mara's most productive regions for lions, leopards, and cheetahs. The journey also uses camps chosen for both comfort and direct access to prime wildlife areas.

You start in Nairobi with a night at Hemingways, a calm base before the adventure. The next morning, a flight takes you to the Maasai Mara. Your first three nights are at [Angama Mara](#), set high on the Rift Valley escarpment. From here you reach the Mara Triangle quickly. This area is famous for sweeping landscapes, seasonal river crossings, and excellent predator encounters.

Next, you spend three nights in [Olare Motorogi Conservancy](#). Few places in Africa match its density of lions. Camps like Mara Plains or Kicheche offer private vehicles and off-road drives. This allows you to track prides closely and capture hunts at dawn or dusk. With fewer vehicles, you enjoy clean, low-angle shots without distraction.

You then shift to **Naboisho or Mara North Conservancy** for three nights. These areas deliver reliable sightings of cheetahs on the plains and leopards along wooded rivers. Guides can take you off-road, on foot, or even at night (where allowed). Each option provides fresh angles and unique behaviour to photograph.

Throughout the safari, expert guides work with you to position for the best light. Midday breaks let you back up, edit, and review images. Each region adds something special: dramatic escarpments, intense predator activity, or intimate encounters in private conservancies.

Finally, you return to Nairobi for one more night at Hemingways. The next day, you fly home with a collection of striking images and memories from Kenya's big cat kingdom.

## Tour Facts

Group Size:  
**2-6**

Duration:  
**12**

Language:  
**English, France, Germany, Spain**

Tour Type:  
**continuous**

## Tour Itinerary

### Day 1 : Arrival in Nairobi and Safari Briefing



Upon arrival at **Jomo Kenyatta International Airport**, you will be warmly welcomed by your safari representative and transferred to **Hemingways Nairobi**, one of the city's most luxurious boutique hotels. Settle into your elegant room and take some time to relax after your flight. In the afternoon, you will have a **comprehensive safari briefing** with your lead guide and photography team, who will outline the itinerary, share expert tips for photographing Kenya's big cats, and

review your equipment to ensure everything is ready for the journey ahead. You may also use this time to explore the hotel's serene grounds or enjoy a short stroll nearby to stretch your legs. In the evening, enjoy a gourmet dinner at Hemingways' restaurant, where you can meet fellow travelers and discuss your photography goals for the coming days. This first night in Nairobi serves as a gentle introduction to Kenyan culture and wildlife, giving you the perfect balance of rest, preparation, and anticipation for the adventure that awaits in the Maasai Mara.

Meals Included  
**DINNER,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

### Day 2 : Nairobi to Maasai Mara: Arrival and First Game Drive



After an early breakfast at Hemingways Nairobi, you will transfer to **Wilson Airport** for your scenic flight to the **Maasai Mara National Reserve**, a world-renowned wildlife haven. Upon arrival, you will be met by your guide and transferred to **Angama Mara**, perched high on the escarpment overlooking the Mara Triangle. After settling into your luxurious tent or suite, enjoy a brief rest before heading out on your **first afternoon game drive**. This initial safari excursion introduces you

to the Mara's abundant wildlife, including zebra, wildebeest, and the elusive big cats in their natural habitat. The Mara Triangle's open plains and escarpment provide dramatic photographic opportunities, especially as the afternoon light casts long shadows across the landscape. Return to Angama Mara in the early evening for a **sunset photography session** on the lodge's private viewing decks. End the day with a gourmet dinner, sharing stories and reviewing the day's photographs. This first full day in the Mara sets the stage for immersive wildlife encounters and ensures you are acclimated to the rhythms of a photographic safari.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

### Day 3 : Maasai Mara: Full-Day Game Drives at Angama Mara



Wake up early to catch the golden light of dawn over the Maasai Mara as you prepare for a **full day of game drives**. After a light breakfast, your guide will take you into the **Mara Triangle**, one of the most wildlife-rich areas of the reserve, to search for lions, leopards, and cheetahs. Spend the morning tracking predator activity across open savannahs and riverine woodlands, capturing dramatic shots of hunting sequences, territorial behavior, and intimate wildlife

moments. Midday is reserved for a **lunch break back at Angama Mara** or a picnic in the field, giving you time to back up photos and review your shots. In the afternoon, venture out for another game drive, focusing on **different areas of the Mara Triangle** where big cats are often sighted resting, hunting, or interacting with their young. As the sun sets, return to your lodge for a **sunset photography session** from the escarpment, capturing the Mara's iconic panoramic landscapes. End the day with a relaxed dinner at Angama Mara, discussing your best images with the guide and fellow travelers. Day 3 provides ample opportunity to **hone your photographic skills** while immersing yourself in the Mara's diverse predator-rich ecosystem.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**9 Hours**

### Day 4 : Maasai Mara: Sunrise Balloon Safari and Full-Day Big Cat Photography



Start the day with an **optional hot-air balloon flight** over the Maasai Mara at sunrise, offering a unique aerial perspective of the Mara Triangle. This is one of the most photogenic experiences, allowing you to capture sweeping savannah landscapes, grazing herds, and predator interactions from above. After landing, enjoy a **champagne breakfast in the bush**, a perfect opportunity to photograph wildlife in natural morning light.

Later, embark on a **full-day guided photographic safari** with your private vehicle and expert guide. Focus on **tracking lions in prides, cheetahs hunting on open plains, and elusive leopards in riverine thickets**. Your guide will position the vehicle for **low-angle shots and unobstructed views**, helping you capture dramatic predator behavior and intimate wildlife portraits. Midday, retreat briefly to Angama Mara for **lunch and a photo review session**, where you can back up your images, adjust settings, and receive guidance on composition and lighting.

In the afternoon, continue your game drives, moving to areas where prey concentrations are high to increase the likelihood of **action shots of big cats hunting or interacting**. The Mara's light during late afternoon is ideal for **golden-hour portraits of lions and cheetahs**, highlighting their fur patterns and expressions against the vibrant landscape. As dusk approaches, return to Angama Mara for **sunset photography** from the lodge's private decks, capturing the Mara's iconic escarpment and wildlife silhouettes.

Dinner at the lodge concludes the day, offering time to **review your best shots, share insights with guides**, and plan strategies for the coming days of intensive wildlife photography. Day 4 combines adventure, strategic predator tracking, and countless opportunities for capturing unforgettable big-cat images.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

## Day 5 : Maasai Mara: Transfer to Olare Motorogi Conservancy and Afternoon Game Drive



After an early breakfast at Angama Mara, you will transfer to **Olare Motorogi Conservancy**, one of the most exclusive and predator-rich private conservancies in the Maasai Mara ecosystem. The drive offers scenic views of the Mara's rolling plains, acacia-dotted landscapes, and occasional wildlife sightings along the way. Upon arrival, check in at a **photographer-focused luxury camp** such as **Mara Plains Camp** or **Kicheche Mara**, both renowned for their proximity to high-density lion

territories and off-road game drive privileges.

After settling into your tent or suite, enjoy a short rest before embarking on your **first afternoon game drive in Olare Motorogi**. The conservancy's private roads allow your guide to position the vehicle close to lion prides, cheetahs, and leopards without the disturbance of crowds, making it ideal for **intimate predator photography**. Focus on capturing dramatic hunting sequences, playful cub interactions, and the expressive faces of the Mara's top predators. Mid-afternoon light casts rich, warm tones across the plains, perfect for **golden-hour shots of lions lounging in the open or cheetahs sprinting across the savannah**.

Return to your camp in the evening for a **sunset photography session** on the lodge's viewing decks, followed by a delicious dinner. Use the night to **review your images, swap tips with your guide, and plan the next day's photographic strategy**. Day 5 combines the excitement of a new region, high predator density, and private conservancy access, giving photographers the perfect start to capturing close, unobstructed images of Kenya's big cats.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

## Day 6 : Olare Motorogi Conservancy: Full-Day Big Cat Photography



Wake up early for a **sunrise game drive** in the heart of Olare Motorogi Conservancy, a photographer's paradise known for its high concentrations of lions, cheetahs, and leopards. After a light breakfast, your private vehicle and expert guide will take you deep into the conservancy, where fewer vehicles and off-road privileges allow **close, unobstructed access to predator activity**. Spend the morning tracking **lion prides resting or hunting**, capturing intimate cub interactions and

powerful male portraits in the soft morning light.

Midday, return briefly to the camp for **lunch, equipment check, and image backup**, then prepare for an extended afternoon drive. The late afternoon is ideal for photographing **cheetahs sprinting across open plains** and leopards moving stealthily through riverine thickets. Your guide will strategically position the vehicle for **eye-level shots**, low-angle compositions, and dramatic silhouette photography against the golden Mara light.

Throughout the day, take advantage of **unique photographic opportunities**, including interaction with prey herds, grooming behavior, territorial markings, and wildlife in natural landscape settings. After sunset, return to your luxury camp for **sunset photography from the deck**, followed by dinner and discussion of the day's highlights. Day 6 is designed to immerse you completely in predator behavior, offering countless chances to **capture dynamic, high-quality images** of Africa's most iconic big cats while learning advanced wildlife photography techniques from your guide.

Meals Included <b>LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,</b>	Duration <b>8 Hours</b>
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### Day 7 : Olare Motorogi Conservancy: Advanced Predator Photography



Rise early to capture the first light over Olare Motorogi Conservancy, when predators are most active. After breakfast, embark on a **full-day photographic safari** concentrating on lions, leopards, and cheetahs. Today, your guide will focus on areas known for **rare leopard sightings** in dense riverine thickets and open plains favored by cheetahs for hunting. With off-road access, you can **position your vehicle strategically** to achieve eye-level and low-angle shots without disturbing the animals.

Spend the morning documenting **lion pride behavior**, including territorial patrols, interactions with cubs, and hunting sequences. Midday provides a brief break at the camp to **review images, recharge equipment, and plan compositions for the afternoon session**. As the day progresses, track cheetahs on the plains for high-speed action shots, and look for leopards resting in trees or moving stealthily along riverbeds. The **afternoon golden light** enhances the colors and textures of the Mara, giving your images a cinematic quality.

End the day with a **sunset photography session** from your camp's viewing deck, capturing silhouettes and the dramatic Mara landscape. After dinner, discuss the day's highlights with your guide and fellow photographers, refining strategies for capturing unique predator moments in the coming days. Day 7 is designed to deepen your understanding of predator behavior and maximize opportunities for striking, professional-quality big-cat photography.

Meals Included <b>LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,</b>	Duration <b>8 Hours</b>
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### Day 8 : Transfer to Naboisho Conservancy: Leopards and Cheetahs



After an early breakfast at your Olare Motorogi camp, you will transfer to **Naboisho Conservancy**, a private, predator-rich area in the northern Mara. This conservancy is renowned for its **higher concentration of leopards and cheetahs**, offering photographers a chance to capture intimate and dynamic predator behavior with minimal vehicle traffic. Upon arrival, check in at a **photographer-friendly luxury camp** such as **Naboisho Camp** or **Kicheche Mara North**, both of which provide prime access to predator hotspots and off-road

driving privileges.

In the afternoon, embark on your **first game drive in Naboisho**, focusing on **tracking leopards resting in trees, hunting cheetahs on open plains, and lions in hidden thickets**. Your guide will position the vehicle for optimal angles, allowing **low-angle and eye-level shots** without disturbing the animals. Use this session to experiment with different lenses and techniques, from telephoto shots of sprinting cheetahs to environmental portraits of leopards in their woodland habitats.

Return to the camp in the early evening for a **sunset photography session** overlooking the Mara plains. The soft, golden light highlights predator silhouettes and the vivid textures of the landscape. After dinner, review your images with your guide, adjusting your strategy to maximize predator encounters over the coming days. Day 8 introduces a **new ecosystem within the Mara**, emphasizing elusive cats and photographic opportunities that are different from the open plains of the Triangle and Olare Motorogi, making it a critical part of a professional-grade big-cat photography safari.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

## Day 9 : Naboisho Conservancy: Full-Day Big Cat Photography



Wake up early to the sounds of the Mara and prepare for a **full day of immersive predator photography** in Naboisho Conservancy. After a light breakfast, your private vehicle and expert guide will take you to the areas most active with **cheetahs and leopards**, as well as lions in smaller prides. Naboisho's private roads and minimal traffic allow you to **get close to predators for unobstructed shots**, capturing both behavior and intimate portraits without disturbance.

Spend the morning following **cheetahs during their hunts on the open plains**, where you can photograph high-speed sprints, stalking movements, and dramatic interactions with prey. Midday is reserved for a short break at your luxury camp to **review images, recharge gear, and plan compositions for the afternoon session**. The late afternoon is ideal for tracking **leopards resting in trees, moving stealthily, or interacting with cubs**, giving you opportunities for creative compositions with natural framing and backlighting.

As the sun sets, return to camp for a **sunset photography session**, capturing the Mara's dramatic light, predator silhouettes, and the golden savanna landscape. Dinner at the camp provides a chance to discuss the day's highlights with your guide, refine photographic strategies, and prepare for the final day of intensive big-cat tracking. Day 9 combines **action, portraiture, and environmental shots**, ensuring you capture a broad range of images of Kenya's most iconic predators in one of the Mara's most exclusive conservancies.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**9 Hours**

## Day 10 : Naboisho Conservancy: Final Full Day of Big Cat Photography



Start the day with an **early-morning game drive** in Naboisho Conservancy, taking advantage of the predators' most active hours. Today is dedicated to **capturing any remaining big-cat behavior** you may have missed, including elusive leopards in trees, cheetahs resting or hunting on the open plains, and lions patrolling their territories. Your expert guide will help **position the vehicle for low-angle, eye-level, and unobstructed shots**, maximizing your chances for dramatic compositions and unique predator interactions.

Midday, return to your camp for **lunch and image review**, fine-tuning your photographic techniques and preparing for the final afternoon drive. The late afternoon offers **golden-hour opportunities**, perfect for capturing lions silhouetted against the Mara's vast landscapes, cheetahs in dynamic movement, or leopards framed by acacia trees. This final game drive allows you to revisit any specific areas where predators have been recently sighted, ensuring you make the most of your last day in the Mara.

In the evening, return to your camp for a **farewell dinner**, reflecting on the incredible wildlife encounters and reviewing your portfolio of images with your guide. Day 10 is designed as a **culmination of your photographic safari**, combining action, portraiture, and environmental shots, providing a rich collection of professional-quality images of Kenya's iconic big cats before your transfer back to Nairobi.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**9 Hours**

## Day 11 : Transfer to Nairobi and Cultural/Urban Photography



After an early breakfast at your Naboisho or Mara North camp, you will **fly back to Nairobi** via a short domestic flight to Wilson Airport. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to **Hemingways Nairobi** or a central luxury hotel for check-in and a brief rest. The day is designed as a gentle transition from the wilderness to the city, allowing time to **review and organize your wildlife images**, back up your files, and prepare for departure the following day.

In the afternoon, you may choose to explore **Nairobi's cultural and photographic highlights**, including the Karen Blixen Museum, local Maasai markets, or the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (elephant orphanage), where you can capture **close-up images of elephants and local wildlife in a semi-natural setting**. Your guide can advise on the best angles, lighting, and timing to maximize photographic opportunities.

Return to your hotel in the early evening for a **final dinner** with your group or guide, reflecting on the safari's highlights, reviewing your favorite images, and discussing techniques that worked best in the field. This day provides a **calm and organized wrap-up** to your photographic adventure, ensuring that both your equipment and images are ready for international travel. Overnight at Hemingways Nairobi

prepares you for departure the following morning.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**9 Hours**

## Day 12 : Departure from Nairobi



On your final day, enjoy a **leisurely breakfast** at Hemingways Nairobi, reflecting on the incredible experiences and wildlife encounters of the past 11 days. Depending on your flight schedule, you may have a few hours for **last-minute city photography**, capturing the vibrant streets of Nairobi or early morning wildlife at a nearby park, if desired.

Later, you will be **transferred to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport** for your international departure. Your guide and driver will ensure a smooth journey, assisting with luggage and any final arrangements. This marks the conclusion of your immersive 12-day big-cat photographic safari, leaving you with an extensive portfolio of **professional-quality images of lions, leopards, cheetahs, and the breathtaking landscapes of the Maasai Mara**.

As you depart Kenya, you carry with you not only stunning photographs but also **lasting memories of close encounters with Africa's most iconic predators**, expert guidance on wildlife photography, and an understanding of predator behavior in one of the world's most celebrated safari destinations.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**