

14-Day Kenya Big Cats Photographic Safari

📍 Masai Mara



This **14-day Kenya photographic safari** offers wildlife photographers extended encounters with lions, leopards, and cheetahs in the Maasai Mara. The itinerary balances luxury accommodation, immersive game drives, and excellent photographic opportunities across three prime Mara regions. You start with **1 night at Hemingways Nairobi**, where you can rest, check your equipment, and prepare for the safari. The next morning, you fly to the **Maasai Mara** to begin your wildlife adventure. The first **4 nights are at Angama Mara**, perched on the Rift Valley escarpment. From here, you access the Mara Triangle easily. Daily drives focus on lions and cheetahs in open plains, as well as leopards in riverine forests. **Sunrise and sunset drives** provide perfect golden-hour light for striking images. Next, you spend **4 nights in Olare Motorogi Conservancy**, home to dense predator populations. Private, off-road drives let you capture **lion prides, cheetah hunts, and leopards** up close. Midday breaks allow time to **review and edit photos**, ensuring you refine your techniques. The final **4 nights are at Naboisho or Mara North Conservancy**, known for leopards in woodland habitats and active cheetahs on plains. These conservancies offer private access and fewer vehicles, giving photographers clean, dramatic shots. Afternoon and evening drives focus on rare behaviors and **golden-hour photography**. You return to Nairobi for **1 final night at Hemingways**, providing time to back up images and reflect on the safari. This 14-day itinerary maximizes wildlife sightings, ensures immersive predator encounters, and provides access to **three of the Mara's best big-cat regions**.

Tour Facts

Group Size:
2-6
Duration:
14

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. Take time to relax after your flight, settle into your elegant room, and prepare your photography gear. In the afternoon, attend a **comprehensive safari briefing** with your lead guide and photography team. They will review the itinerary, provide tips for capturing big cats, and ensure your equipment is fully ready for the upcoming adventure.

You may also enjoy a short walk around the hotel grounds or nearby areas to stretch your legs and practice some initial photography in an urban or garden setting. In the evening, gather for a **welcome dinner** at Hemingways' restaurant, meet fellow travelers, and discuss your photographic goals. This first night in Nairobi provides a perfect balance of rest, preparation, and anticipation before you fly to the Maasai Mara for the heart of your photographic safari.

Meals Included
DINNER,

Duration
5 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 a scenic flight to the **Maasai Mara National Reserve**, offering stunning aerial views of the savannah and scattered wildlife. Upon arrival, your guide will meet you and transfer you to **Angama Mara**, perched on the Rift Valley escarpment, providing breathtaking panoramic views over the Mara Triangle. After settling into your luxurious tent or suite, enjoy a short rest before heading out on your **first afternoon game drive**.

This initial safari introduces you to the Mara's abundant wildlife, including **lions, leopards, cheetahs, and grazing herbivores**. Your guide will focus on positioning the vehicle for **optimal photographic angles**, ensuring unobstructed and low-angle shots of predators in their natural habitat. Afternoon light creates dramatic shadows, enhancing the depth and richness of your photographs. Return to Angama Mara for a **sunset photography session** from the lodge's viewing decks, capturing silhouettes of wildlife against the golden sky. End the day with a gourmet dinner, reviewing your first wildlife images and planning strategies for the following days.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 3 : Angama Mara: Full-Day Big Cat Photography



Rise early for a **sunrise game drive** across the Mara Triangle, when predators are most active. After a light breakfast in the bush or back at the lodge, spend the morning tracking **lions, leopards, and cheetahs**. Your expert guide will position the vehicle for **low-angle and eye-level shots**, giving you unobstructed views for intimate predator portraits and dramatic action sequences.

Midday, return briefly to **Angama Mara** for lunch, a short rest, and a **photo review session**, allowing you to back up images and adjust camera settings. In the afternoon, venture back into the Mara Triangle to explore **different habitats**, including open plains for cheetah hunts and riverine forests where leopards are often sighted. The late afternoon golden light enhances the textures and colors of the landscape, perfect for **dramatic predator photography**.

Conclude the day with a **sunset session** from the lodge's decks, capturing wildlife silhouettes against the Mara escarpment. Dinner at Angama Mara provides a chance to discuss the day's highlights and plan your photographic strategy for the following day. Day 3 offers immersive wildlife experiences, maximizing both predator sightings and professional-quality photography opportunities.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 4 : Angama Mara: Sunrise Balloon Safari and Full-Day Game Drives



Begin the day with an **optional hot-air balloon ride** over the Maasai Mara at sunrise. This unique perspective allows you to photograph **herds, predators, and sweeping landscapes** from above, capturing dramatic aerial compositions. After landing, enjoy a **champagne breakfast in the bush**, ideal for shooting wildlife in the soft morning light.

Later, embark on a **full-day guided photographic safari** with your private vehicle and expert guide. Focus on **tracking lion prides lounging or hunting**, cheetahs sprinting across open plains, and leopards resting in trees. Your guide will position the vehicle for **low-angle shots and clean compositions**, ensuring you capture dynamic predator behavior.

Midday, return briefly to Angama Mara for **lunch and image review**, allowing time to organize your photos and refine camera settings. In the afternoon, continue game drives in **high-density predator areas**, increasing your chances for intimate wildlife portraits and action sequences. Conclude the day with a **sunset photography session** from the lodge's viewing deck, capturing the Mara's iconic escarpment and golden savannah light. Dinner at the lodge completes a day filled with **immersive photography and predator encounters**, setting the stage for the next leg of your safari.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 5 : 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 Mara's private, predator-rich areas. The drive showcases scenic savannah landscapes, scattered acacia trees, 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 known for close predator encounters and off-road game drive privileges.

After settling in, embark on your **first afternoon game drive** in the conservancy. Olare Motorogi offers **high-density predator sightings**, with lions, cheetahs, and leopards frequently visible. Your guide will position the vehicle for **low-angle and unobstructed shots**, maximizing photographic opportunities. The late afternoon golden light is ideal for capturing dramatic images of lions resting, cheetahs sprinting, or leopards in trees.

Return to camp for **sunset photography** from the lodge's viewing deck, followed by a gourmet dinner. Use this time to **review images and plan strategies** for the following days. Day 5 introduces a new region of the Mara, providing **exclusive access to predators** and setting the stage for immersive photographic experiences over the next four nights.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

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



Start early with a **sunrise game drive**, when predators are most active and lighting is ideal for photography. Today, spend the morning tracking **lion prides resting, hunting, or interacting with cubs**, as well as cheetahs moving across open plains. Your guide will position the vehicle for **low-angle and eye-level shots**, ensuring unobstructed views for intimate portraits and dynamic action sequences.

Return to your camp for **lunch and a photo review session**, giving you a chance to **back up images, adjust camera settings, and refine composition techniques**. In the afternoon, venture into **different parts of the conservancy** to locate elusive leopards in riverine forests or cheetahs hunting on the plains. The **late-afternoon golden light** creates dramatic shadows and enhances textures, perfect for both predator and landscape photography.

End the day with a **sunset photography session** from your camp's viewing deck, capturing the Mara's vast scenery and predator silhouettes. Dinner provides an opportunity to discuss the day's highlights with your guide and fellow photographers. Day 6 offers a **full immersion in predator behavior**, maximizing both wildlife encounters and professional-quality photographic results.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 7 : Olare Motorogi Conservancy: Advanced Predator Photography



Rise early for a **sunrise game drive**, capturing predators in their most active hours. Today focuses on **advanced big-cat photography**, targeting elusive leopards in riverine forests, cheetahs hunting on open plains, and lions patrolling or interacting within their prides. Your guide will position the vehicle for **eye-level shots, low-angle compositions, and unobstructed views**, giving you the best opportunity for striking images.

During the morning, document **lion behavior**, cheetah sprints, and leopard stealth movements. Return to the camp at midday for **lunch and image review**, refining your photographic techniques. In the afternoon, explore other areas of the conservancy for **rare predator behaviors** and intimate wildlife portraits, using the late-afternoon golden light to create dramatic silhouettes and environmental shots.

End the day with a **sunset session** from your camp's deck, capturing the Mara's scenic vistas and predator silhouettes against the glowing horizon. Dinner provides a chance to **review your portfolio, plan strategies for upcoming days**, and share insights with your guide. Day 7 delivers immersive predator encounters, advanced photographic opportunities, and unparalleled access to the Mara's wildlife.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
7 Hours

Day 8 : Transfer to Naboisho Conservancy: Leopards and Cheetahs



After an early breakfast at Olare Motorogi, you will transfer to **Naboisho Conservancy or Mara North**, a private and predator-rich area of the Maasai Mara. Upon arrival, check in at a **photographer-focused luxury camp** such as **Naboisho Camp or Kicheche Mara North**, offering **close access to big cats and off-road privileges**.

In the afternoon, embark on your **first game drive in Naboisho**, focusing on **leopards resting in trees, cheetahs on open plains, and lions in secluded thickets**. The conservancy's private roads allow for **unobstructed, low-angle, and eye-level shots**, ideal for professional wildlife photography. Late afternoon light enhances textures and colors, providing dramatic golden-hour shots.

Return to camp for **sunset photography** from the deck, capturing predator silhouettes and sweeping Mara landscapes. Dinner offers time to **review images and plan strategies** for the next days. Day 8 introduces a new ecosystem, emphasizing **elusive big cats, intimate predator encounters, and premium photographic opportunities** in a quiet, exclusive conservancy.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

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



Begin early with a **sunrise game drive**, when predators are most active. Spend the morning tracking **leopards in trees, cheetahs stalking prey, and lions in hidden thickets**. Your guide will position the vehicle for **eye-level shots, low-angle compositions, and unobstructed views**, allowing you to capture intimate portraits and dynamic action sequences.

Return to camp at midday for **lunch and a photo review session**, where you can **back up images and refine camera settings**. In the afternoon, continue exploring the conservancy for additional big-cat encounters. Focus on **rare predator behaviors**, environmental portraits, and golden-hour photography. The quiet, private roads of Naboisho make it easier to photograph predators without disturbances.

Conclude the day with a **sunset photography session** from the camp's viewing deck, capturing dramatic Mara landscapes and predator silhouettes. Dinner provides an opportunity to discuss the day's highlights and plan strategies for the next day. Day 9 ensures **maximum predator sightings, action shots, and professional-quality photographic opportunities** in a premier conservancy.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 10 : Naboisho Conservancy: Final Full-Day Big Cat Photography



Wake early for a **sunrise game drive**, taking advantage of predators' most active hours. Today focuses on **capturing any remaining big-cat behaviors**, including leopards moving through trees, cheetahs hunting or resting, and lions patrolling their territories. Your guide will position the vehicle for **optimal angles**, allowing **unobstructed, low-angle, and eye-level shots** for dynamic action and intimate portraits.

Return to camp for **lunch and image review**, giving you time to back up photos and fine-tune camera settings. In the afternoon, venture into **high-density predator areas** to maximize encounters and golden-hour opportunities. The quiet, private roads of the conservancy allow you to photograph predators without disturbance, capturing dramatic silhouettes and environmental portraits.

End the day with a **sunset photography session** from your camp's viewing deck, overlooking the Mara plains. Dinner provides a chance to **review your portfolio, plan strategies, and reflect on the safari's highlights**. Day 10 delivers immersive predator experiences, professional photographic opportunities, and a final chance to capture the Mara's iconic big cats.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 11 : Transfer to Laikipia Plateau: Predator Photography in a New Landscape



After an early breakfast at Naboisho or Mara North, you will take a **scenic flight or road transfer** to Laikipia Plateau, a region renowned for its **high-density predators and exclusive conservancies**. Upon arrival, check in at a **luxury photographic lodge**, such as **Segera Retreat** or **Borana Lodge**, both offering excellent access to lions, leopards, and cheetahs, as well as private roads for unobstructed game drives.

In the afternoon, embark on your **first Laikipia game drive**, focusing on **lions lounging on rocky outcrops, leopards moving through riverine forests, and cheetahs hunting across open plains**. The plateau's **dramatic landscapes, isolated trees, and distant mountains** create unique environmental photography opportunities, adding diversity to your safari portfolio. Your guide will position the vehicle for **low-angle and eye-level shots**, maximizing predator portraits and action sequences.

Conclude the day with a **sunset photography session** from your lodge's viewpoint, capturing silhouettes of predators and the expansive Laikipia scenery. Dinner at the lodge provides an opportunity to **review images and plan strategies** for the following full days of predator-focused photography. Day 11 introduces a **new ecosystem**, offering fresh photographic compositions and continued immersive predator encounters.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
9 Hours

Day 12 : Laikipia Plateau: Full-Day Big Cat Photography



Wake early for a **sunrise game drive**, taking advantage of the predators' most active hours. Spend the morning tracking **lions patrolling rocky outcrops, leopards moving stealthily through riverine forests, and cheetahs hunting or resting on open plains**. Your guide will position the vehicle for **eye-level shots, low-angle perspectives, and unobstructed compositions**, allowing you to capture dynamic action and intimate predator portraits.

Return to the lodge for **lunch and a photo review session**, where you can **back up images, adjust camera settings, and refine composition techniques**. In the afternoon, explore different areas of the conservancy to photograph **rare predator behaviors, interactions, and environmental portraits**. Laikipia's quiet, private roads provide excellent opportunities for **clean shots without other vehicles or distractions**.

End the day with a **sunset photography session** from the lodge's viewpoint, capturing dramatic silhouettes against the plateau's stunning landscapes. Dinner allows for **reviewing your portfolio and planning strategies** for the final day. Day 12 offers immersive predator encounters, advanced photographic opportunities, and a new setting that enriches your safari portfolio.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 13 : Laikipia Plateau: Final Full-Day Predator Photography



Begin the day with an **early sunrise game drive**, when lions, leopards, and cheetahs are most active. Today is dedicated to capturing **any remaining predator behaviors**, including cheetah hunts across open plains, leopards resting in riverine trees, and lions interacting within their prides. Your guide will ensure the vehicle is positioned for **eye-level shots, low-angle perspectives, and unobstructed compositions**, allowing you to capture intimate portraits and action sequences.

Return to the lodge for **lunch and a midday photo review**, where you can organize images and refine camera settings. In the afternoon, continue exploring Laikipia's diverse habitats, including **rocky outcrops, acacia woodlands, and riverine corridors**, to photograph predators in striking landscapes. The plateau's private roads and exclusive conservancy access provide a quiet environment for **dramatic golden-hour photography**, perfect for environmental portraits and silhouettes.

Conclude the day with a **sunset photography session** from the lodge's viewpoint, capturing the expansive Laikipia scenery and predators against the glowing horizon. Dinner offers a final opportunity to **review your portfolio, discuss highlights with guides, and plan for the next day's transfer**. Day 13 ensures your safari ends on a high note, with **maximum predator sightings, diverse compositions, and professional-quality images**.

Meals Included
LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours

Day 14 : Transfer to Nairobi and Departure



After an early breakfast at your Laikipia lodge, enjoy a **leisurely morning or optional short game drive** to capture any last wildlife shots in the plateau's unique landscapes. Depending on your flight schedule, your guide may suggest photographing predators, scenic landscapes, or environmental portraits one final time.

Later, you will **transfer to Nairobi** by road or domestic flight. Upon arrival, you can either check in at **Hemingways Nairobi** for a final night (if your departure is the next day) or proceed directly to **Jomo Kenyatta International Airport** for your international flight home. Your guide and driver will ensure a **smooth transfer**, assisting with luggage and any last arrangements.

As your 14-day safari concludes, you leave Kenya with **an extensive portfolio of big-cat images, unforgettable wildlife encounters, and memories of Africa's most iconic predators** in both the Maasai Mara and Laikipia Plateau. This final day provides a reflective conclusion, celebrating the achievements and experiences of your immersive photographic journey.

Meals Included
LUNCH, BREAKFAST,

Duration
8 Hours