

10 DAYS COMMUNITY ECO ADVENTURE SAFARI

ITINERARY:

Day 1: Mombasa / Nairobi – Mount Kasigau

0800am you will depart Mombasa / Nairobi and drive to Taita hills. Mount Kasigau is part of the Eastern Arc Mountains with beautiful views of the Gae rock which has a spectacular sundowner. On arrival at Kasigau village, you will be met by the local guide and a village elder. After brief introductions you will check into your accommodations. You will then join local guide who will take you through the village orientation, familiarization and settling in. You will experience the good hospitality of natives and at night enjoy cultural dances and unique story telling by the village elder on the first world war between British and Germany and how it affected the Taita community

Dinner and Overnight at Tents / Cottages / Homestays – FB

Day 2: Community Development Projects / Economic Empowerment

This community engages in different projects to improve their livelihood and be empowered economically. Preserving nature is a project that they also consider totally important to them. Nature conservation is one of the major focal issues within Kasigau community. On this day, you will intensively participate in tree nursery and planting and discerning activities from a community based organization known as Kasigau Development Trust, located at Rukanga. The community scouts who have specialized in this will lead and guide in this tree planting initiatives. Kasigau community has about 15 women groups who specialize in weaving beautiful African baskets for economic purposes. They came up with the basket weaving enterprise in order to generate income by selling to various people of interest. The community also engages in small scale farming which assists them to feed the family and if any surplus for sale. This afternoon you will visit some of the women groups if possible all of them and marvel at their weaving skills and where necessary or possible have moments with them and share advise on selling skills and marketing of their products which will impact positively on the economic levels. See how they do their farming and what they farm and where possible and with time try milking a cow or weeding of the crops and enjoy the experience! In the evening return to your accommodation and enjoy the evening away with dinner in the company of your local guide and villagers.

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Day 3: Village Nature Walk and Sports activities with youth / school children - Sundowner

A nature walk in Kasigau village and Taita hills this day with your sporty wear in readiness for an afternoon of sports makes it quite an exciting day! The massive rocky outcrop, the lush green vegetation covering the densely population slopes, the several isolated forest and meandering road up the hills, are just some of the scenic sights of Taita hills that make it perfect for a nature walk. The views from the peak are incredibly beautiful! In the afternoon you will get the opportunity to meet the youth and school children for an exciting football tournament. This tournaments are encouraged in this village for it brings the youth together and are encouraged from keeping away from drugs, indiscipline and idleness. In the evening you will visit the Gae Rock. Gae Rock is a natural rock with a dam at the bottom which is about 5km form the village. From this rock you will be able to have spectacular views of Kasigau and a beautiful sundowner! You will watch the beauty of the sunset from this rock. After sunset you will return to your accommodation for dinner and overnight.

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Day 4: Full day Trekking on Mount Kasigau

After breakfast, with your picnic lunch boxes you will depart for a day of adventure on Mt. Kasigau. Mount Kasigau borders the Southern West reaches of Tsavo West National Park. It's a famous hill which was used by British and German as observation point during 01st world war in 1914. It is 1641 meter above sea level , 14.6 kilometers ascending and descending. You must be physically fit in order to climb. For this climb, equip yourselves with proper shoes e.g. hiking boots / sports shoes, raincoat, camera and if possible binoculars. The climb will take you between 6 – 8hrs (up and down). Mt. Kasigau is surrounded by 5 villages which are Kiteghe, Rukanga, Jora, Bungule, and Makwasinyi with a population of 9,000 people. The mountain is the main water catchment of 5 villages. The forest has 3 categories to look out for which are deciduous forest, semi – ever green forest and rain forest. The mountain has endemic bird species like Taita White eye bird and many medicinal plants e.g. Cassia Abbreviate which is used as a painkiller. Adventure of discovery! Those who are not able to do the trek will do a walking adventure to enjoy the scenery, learn medicinal plant, visit shrine caves, learn how Taita people protect their family from bad spirits of dead relatives and the steep cliff where those practicing witch craft were punished by our ancestors. In the evening return to your accommodation for dinner and overnight.

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Day 5: Tsavo East National Park

Early in the morning after breakfast, with picnic lunch you will depart and drive to Tsavo East National Park. Tsavo East offers a vast and untapped arena of arid bush. It has the largest Elephant herds in Kenya. Its major attractions are Elephant in Eden (red Elephants wallowing in the red soil of Tsavo East), Aruba Dam, Mudanda Rock and Luggard Falls. In Tsavo East you will enjoy game drives visiting Mudanda rock, lugard falls, Aruba dam and a lot of sightseeing. At 5pm you will depart Tsavo East and drive back to Kasigau for dinner and Overnight.

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Day 6: Visit the mining project in Kasigau

Kasigau has vast mineral resources. Many types of gemstones are harvested in this area on small scale for economic purposes. This include Ruby, Green Garnet, Tormanile and pure Marble garnets etc. You will meet small scale miners who will take you through their day of mining! Upon understanding what they do and how they do it you will be allowed to share ideas and thoughts with them on how they can become better and improve their product for sale. In the evening of this day there will be a fare well dinner party in the village to celebrate your spending time in this area. Farewells and photo sessions to be done this evening due to the early departure in the morning.

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Day 7: Kasigau – Tsunza Peninsula

This exciting adventure will take you to Tsunza Peninsula. In the 19th century Arab settlers during that period were involved in slave trade and Tsunza provided a hide out for those fleeing arrest by the slave masters which has given Tsunza a unique adventure point by taking a traditional dhow sail (approximately 2hrs) along this unique coast. Tsunza is rich in original and pristine traditional heritage sites and features with a marvel for bird watching and

photography. Tsunza Peninsula is the beautiful forgotten Island with a rich scenic beauty for adventure. Depart after breakfast and drive on the Mombasa / Nairobi highway to the jetty. You will be welcomed on the jetty with a soft drink “madafu” – which is coconut and very refreshing in the hot sun. You will be introduced to the local guide who will then introduce his team on the boat and also brief on what to expect on this exciting eco - adventure. Once ready you will all board and depart to sail to Tsunza village. Enjoy this unique and adventurous sail exposing you to the uniqueness of the part of the Indian Ocean. Alongside this sailing keep capturing the unique birds and their unique patterns, watch the scenic beauty and the landscape to the unique shrines, mud baths, rocks, fishing, photography, and not forgetting the mangroves. On arrival at village you will be met with an excited village with song and dance after which you will settle in to your places of accommodation and spend the rest of the day taking in the uniqueness of this day. A local dance will be a performance in the evening during dinner with a bonfire that you will definitely want to join!

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Day 8: Tsunza village walk / Culture

Comtouch Kenya is a community based organization that is working with the Tsunza village creating different projects / programs that will help the help the community to be economical empowered through culture, arts, farming, tree planting etc. This entire day you will go through a day with the villagers to understand their daily life from cooking, to taking care of the house and children, their customs and culture etc. During the walk you will understand and be part of how their prepare their meals, meet with the women and see their art skills in weaving and crafts, and much more! In the evening you will enjoy your dinner with storytelling from a village elder on the history of this village and their practices and how they have affected them.

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Day 9: Farming / Mangrove planting / Ecological sites

Tsunza has a vast expanse of ecological sites. After breakfast you will join your local guide and the first part of the morning visit the expanse of this ecological sites and marvel at their beauty! Their names have been given from a reason or an event. In the afternoon visit the fish farming project that is done by the villagers which is in 2 parts he floating cage and the fish ponds. This projects empower the villagers economically since they sell the fish to other markets, traders, hotels etc. Economically they are also fishermen and if possible take on a fishing adventure! In the afternoon you will partake in a tree planting adventure which this community engages in to protect the environment by planting Mangroove trees. You will also visit a school where children are taught on environmental conservation. This children are trained in tree nursery establishment / conserving the environment. Join them to show you their nurseries and help them do a nursery together. They are made aware the importance of conserving the environment! Dinner this night will be with bonfire with song and dance with the villagers showing of their artifacts / traditional costume.

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Day 10: Departure Mombasa / Nairobi

In the morning after breakfast depart with farewells to the villagers and photo sessions. Board your boat and sail to the jetty where you will be transferred to your onward plans.

End of Services....

Included in the price are:

- ✓ Full board accommodation on safari i.e. 3 meals a day
- ✓ All national park entry fees,
- ✓ Transport in our custom safari vehicle throughout the safari,
- ✓ Services of our professional English speaking safari Driver-Guide,
- ✓ All game drives as per itinerary,
- ✓ Government Taxes and Levies,
- ✓ All transfers as per itinerary
- ✓ All excursions as per itinerary
- ✓ Water in the vehicle to use while on game drives
- ✓ Emergency medical evacuation cover

Excluded in the price are:

- ✓ International airfares and their corresponding departure taxes,
- ✓ Visa fees into Kenya,
- ✓ Travel/Baggage/Medical Insurance,
- ✓ Tips to driver-guide, hotel staff etc,
- ✓ Items of personal nature i.e. drinks in the lodges, telephone/fax bills, laundry etc,
- ✓ Any other items not specified in the “*inclusions*” clause.

What to Carry:

- ✓ A digital Camera, its charger and a downloading cable
- ✓ Torch, Tooth paste, warm clothing for the night, pain killers, drinks, snacks and Identifications card / passport for gate entrance
- ✓ Pocket money for drinks and gift for the Maasai cultural visit