

# **The Red Plains & Stilted Spires: A 4-Day Tsavo and Taita Hills Expedition**

Embark on a four-day journey into the heart of Kenya's wilder side, moving from the vast, iron-red landscapes of Tsavo East to the unique, architectural marvels of the Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. This itinerary is designed for those who appreciate the raw beauty of the "theater of the wild" combined with some of the most iconic lodge experiences in East Africa. From the legendary man-eaters' territory to the intimate waterhole views at Salt Lick, this safari captures the essence of the African bush.

## **Day 1: The Journey to the Theater of the Wild**

The adventure begins with an early

departure from Nairobi, heading southeast toward the world-renowned Tsavo East National Park. As you enter through the Manyani or Voi Gate, the landscape transforms into a dramatic expanse of red earth and scrubland. You will arrive at Voi Wildlife Lodge in time for lunch, settling in before an afternoon game drive. This initial exploration focuses on the Aruba Dam area, where herds of "red" elephants—stained by the park's volcanic soil—congregate to drink. As the sun sets over the Sagala Hills, you'll return to the lodge for dinner and a quiet evening overlooking the illuminated watering hole.

## **Day 2: Exploring the Galana River and Mudanda Rock**

A full day in Tsavo East allows for a deeper dive into its diverse ecosystems. The morning is dedicated to the northern

reaches of the park, where the flat plains offer excellent visibility for spotting lions and cheetahs on the hunt. You will visit the spectacular Lugard Falls, where the Galana River has carved deep grooves into the rock over millennia, and Mudanda Rock, an inselberg that provides a natural vantage point over a massive watering hole. After a picnic lunch or a return to the lodge, the afternoon is spent tracking the park's lesser-known inhabitants, such as the long-necked gerenuk or the Somali ostrich, before a second night at Voi Wildlife Lodge.

### **Day 3: Transition to the Taita Hills Sanctuary**

After an early breakfast and a final morning game drive in Tsavo East, you will head toward the private Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. This lush sanctuary serves as a vital corridor for migratory wildlife and

offers a stark contrast to the open plains of Tsavo. You will check into the legendary Salt Lick Safari Lodge, famous for its stilted roundhouses that look out over the plains. After lunch, an afternoon game drive through the sanctuary offers a chance to see buffalo and elephants at close range. As night falls, the lodge's underground bunker provides a rare, eye-level perspective of animals visiting the salt lick, making for an unforgettable evening.

## **Day 4: Sunrise over the Hills and Return to Nairobi**

The final day begins with the unique experience of watching wildlife gather at the waterhole directly beneath your room as the sun rises. A final early morning game drive through the sanctuary offers one last opportunity to spot predators

before they retreat from the heat of the day. Following a hearty breakfast at the lodge, you will begin the drive back to Nairobi. The route provides a final look at the rolling Taita Hills and the vast Kenyan landscape, arriving back in the city by late afternoon, bringing this immersive wildlife circuit to a close.