

# The Great Southern Safari: Amboseli to the Tsavo Plains

## Day 1: Into the Shadow of Kilimanjaro

Your journey begins with a drive south from Nairobi, transitioning from the city's bustle to the open plains of the Amboseli ecosystem. As you approach the park, the iconic snow-capped peak of Mount Kilimanjaro often reveals itself, providing a majestic backdrop for your arrival at **Sentrim Amboseli Lodge**. After checking into your tented room and

enjoying a fresh lunch, you'll head out for an afternoon game drive. This park is world-renowned for its massive "tuskers"—giant African elephants that congregate in the emerald-green swamps fed by the mountain's meltwater. You'll spend the evening watching the sunset over the horizon before returning to the lodge for dinner and a quiet night under the stars.

## **Day 2: Exploring the Elephant Kingdom**

The second day is dedicated to a deeper exploration of Amboseli's unique landscape. An early morning start offers the best chance to see

predators like lions and cheetahs before the heat of the day sends them into hiding. You might drive up to Observation Hill, which provides a panoramic view of the entire park, allowing you to spot hippos wallowing in the marshes below. After a midday break at the lodge to escape the sun, the late afternoon game drive offers a chance to photograph giraffe, zebra, and wildebeest against the silhouette of the mountain. You'll finish the day with a relaxing evening at the lodge, perhaps sharing stories by the fire.

## **Day 3: Volcanic Wonders of Tsavo West**

After an early breakfast, you'll depart

Amboseli and cross the Shetani Lava Flow—a vast, blackened landscape of volcanic rock that marks the entrance to Tsavo West. This park is a stark contrast to Amboseli, featuring hilly terrain and dense acacia woodlands. Upon arrival at **Ngulia Safari Lodge**, which is dramatically perched on the edge of the Ndawe Escarpment, you'll have lunch with a view. In the afternoon, you'll visit the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, a vital stronghold for the endangered black rhino. As night falls back at the lodge, keep a close eye on the floodlit trees near the restaurant, as Ngulia is famous for the leopards that frequently visit for a nightly meal.

# Day 4: Mzima Springs and the Red Lands of Tsavo East

Your morning begins with a visit to Mzima Springs, a lush oasis where millions of gallons of crystal-clear water gush from the ground. You can walk through the shaded greenery and use the underwater viewing chamber to see hippos and crocodiles from a unique perspective. Afterward, you'll exit Tsavo West and head toward the vast, open savannas of Tsavo East. You'll check into **Voi Wildlife Lodge**, which sits right at the park boundary. The afternoon game drive introduces you to the "Red Elephants" of Tsavo, whose skin takes on a brick-red hue from the park's iron-rich dust. You'll

return to the lodge for dinner, perhaps watching wildlife visit the lodge's own waterhole.

## **Day 5: The Endless Savanna and the Yatta Plateau**

A full day in Tsavo East allows you to venture deeper into one of the largest protected areas in the world. You'll drive along the Galana River to see Lugard Falls, where the water has carved bizarre shapes into the rock over centuries. Nearby, you might spot crocodiles sunning themselves on the banks or the rare lesser kudu moving through the brush. The landscape here is dominated by the Yatta Plateau, the world's longest lava flow,

which stretches along the horizon. This is the "theatre of the wild," where the sheer scale of the African bush is most apparent. You'll spend your final safari night at Voi Wildlife Lodge, reflecting on the diversity of the landscapes you've traversed.

## **Day 6: Final Game Drive and the Journey Home**

On your final morning, you'll head out for one last sunrise game drive to catch the park's inhabitants at their most active. This is a great time to look for Tsavo's famous lions, known for their unique maneless appearance, as they move across the plains. After a hearty breakfast at the lodge and a

final look at the waterhole, you'll begin the journey back to Nairobi. The drive offers a last chance to appreciate the rugged beauty of the Eastern African landscape before the scenery shifts back toward the highlands and the city skyline.