



PRINCETON JOURNEYS
A World of Learning

KENYA

Featuring the Mpala Research Centre

SEPTEMBER 11 - 26, 2006





Dear Princetonian,

In 1989 an alumnus came back to Princeton with a vision: a conservation plan for his 45,000-acre cattle ranch in Laikipia, Kenya. George L. Small '43 worked with worldwide partners to make his dream a reality. The Mpala Research Centre was established in 1991 when Princeton entered into a partnership with the Mpala Wildlife Foundation, Kenya Wildlife Service, National Museums of Kenya, and the Smithsonian Institution. Join fellow Princeton alumni and friends, September 11-26, 2006, in learning about the research being undertaken there and its continued ties to the Princeton-in-Africa program and other University departments.

This special itinerary also includes a safari experience, exploring several different habitats from the lush slopes of Mount Kenya to the arid Rift Valley and the vast grasslands of the Maasai Mara. Because travel will sometimes be undertaken on private land, opportunities exist to walk as well as drive, providing an intimate experience with the countryside and its denizens. Interaction with the people of local tribes rounds out the experience of this Journey to Kenya.

To experience Kenya's spectacles of wildlife and richness of culture, this itinerary strays from the standard safari routes into exclusive nature preserves. Enjoy nine nights in tented camps situated in private gameland reserves to experience exceptional wildlife encounters and wonderful evenings under the African sky, and another four nights in beautifully located game lodges and in historic cottages located on the outskirts of Nairobi.

We hope that you can join this program, which is certain to be an extraordinary adventure. Space is limited, so book your reservation early.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Miller

Margaret M. Miller '80
Director

Office of the Alumni Association of
Princeton University



Samuel, a Maasai warrior, is part of the team that watches over our camp

For more information, please contact
The Princeton Journeys Staff at (609) 258-8686 or
email journeys@princeton.edu

STUDY LEADER

Study leader **Howard Ende** P90 is president of the Mpala Wildlife Foundation, the funding source for the Mpala Research Centre. A member of Princeton's legal staff for 27 years and general counsel for 10 years, Mr. Ende became involved in the center a dozen years ago when he began working with George Small '43 to set up the trust for the Mpala property. Small owned 45,000 acres in Kenya and wanted to dedicate that property to advance the understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem processes. "We here in the West love to go and look at these wonderful beasts in their natural habitat. But for a lot of humans in the area, the elephant is not really their friend," Mr. Ende once told the New York Press. "So one of the main things we're working on at the research center is the wildlife/human conflict issues." Supplementing our local naturalist drivers/guides, Mr. Ende will provide wonderful insight on the operational realities facing many conservation organizations in east Africa.



Zebra roam Kenya's open plains. Learn about Princeton's zebra research at the Mpala Research Centre.

WHAT TO EXPECT

From the moment of departure from Nairobi by chartered plane, leave the crowds behind. Travel through the Kenyan landscape in comfortable LandCruiser safari vehicles where every passenger has a window seat, and all vehicles have roof hatches for easy wildlife viewing and photography. Throughout the program travel with the same superb drivers/guides who are knowledgeable about Kenyan wildlife, ecosystems, culture, and geography; their expertise and enthusiasm are certain to enhance your safari experience. During the safari, camp on exclusive reserves where the people of the local tribes share their land and customs with the group, an opportunity that is rarely enjoyed on standard lodge-based safaris.

“The final destination of any journey is not, after all, the last item on the agenda but rather some understanding, however simple and provisional, of what one has seen.”

—Pico Iyer, Travel Writer

TENTED CAMPS

Experience the Hemingway-style safari of bygone days by staying in mobile, tented camps for most of the program. Camps are positioned in remote private settings near wildlife concentrations, far

removed from other tourists, and offer amazing comfort and security.

Sleep in a spacious walk-in tent attractively appointed with proper beds and linens, table and chairs, and lanterns. Each tent has its own toilet and shower, and the staff provides hot water. During camp stays, an experienced and attentive staff prepares and serves delicious meals,



A well-appointed tent

complete with freshly baked breads, at a table set with crystal and china and lit by candlelight. After dinner, the day's adventures are shared with each other around a campfire, and later, the sounds of Africa permeate the night sky. All beverages and laundry service are included at the camps. To allow the staff to reposition the campsites, four nights are spent in attractive lodges.



The dining tent

PARKS & RESERVES

SAMBURU GAME RESERVE

Located on the fringe of the sparsely populated northern region of Kenya is the Samburu Game Reserve. This arid reserve lies within the lands of the colorful Samburu people, a pastoral tribe related to the Maasai and distinguished by women who wear layers of beads around their necks and men made famous by their colorful adornment and high-jumping dances. The reserve is rich in mammal species rarely found elsewhere in significant numbers. Explorations could yield sightings of lion, cheetah, leopard, elephant, Dik-Dik, and unique northern desert species such as Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, Beisa oryx, Somali ostrich, and gerenuk. Along the reserve's acacia-fringed rivers can be seen large populations of crocodiles and hippos.

LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

Lake Nakuru National Park is renowned for and was created to protect its stunning flocks of Lesser Flamingo. Lake Nakuru, a soda lake, is an ornithologist's haven where thousands of pink flamingos feed in aquamarine shallows and literally turn the lakeshore pink. Although birds are a major attraction here, the park spans a range of wooded and bush grassland around the lake offering wide ecological diversity, including Rothschild's giraffe, leopard, lion, black and white Colobus monkey, steinbok, and impala, and along the lakeshore roam waterbuck, hippo, and zebra. In 1987 white and black rhino were reintroduced in the park and as a result of the successful re-establishment, a rhino sanctuary has recently been created. Today, the woodlands surrounding Lake Nakuru are among the best places in Kenya to see these endangered species.



Game viewing from our vehicle

MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

The northern extension of the celebrated Serengeti ecosystem, the Maasai Mara is a vast expanse of undulating grass and woodlands that are alive with game year round. Considered to be Africa's greatest wildlife reserve, the Maasai Mara offers spectacular views across plains and rolling hills and an extraordinary density of animals. Encounter a wide variety of African game, including wildebeest, zebra, buffalo, leopard, lion, and cheetah, as well as hippo and crocodile in the Mara's rivers, and witness the ongoing drama of their interaction. Among the most interesting cultures on Earth, the independent and nomadic Maasai continue today to practice traditional age-old rituals and customs, including moving their great cattle herds across the open savannah with the changing of the seasons. The unique co-existence of the Maasai people and wildlife makes this reserve one of the world's most extraordinary wilderness areas.

MPALA RESEARCH CENTRE

The Mpala Research Centre is a research, education, and training facility located in central Kenya used by many Princeton students and faculty. The center focuses on environmental and social sciences education, and research and is administered by the Mpala Research Trust, a collaborative undertaking by the Kenya Wildlife Service, the National Museums of Kenya, the Smithsonian Institution, and Princeton University.



An alert pride of lions



Flamingos at Lake Nakuru



Hippopotami at a watering hole



A Lilac-breasted Roller

ITINERARY

NEW YORK / LONDON *Monday, September 11*

Depart New York or another departure city for London, England.

NAIROBI *Tuesday, September 12*

Arrive in London this morning and connect to a flight to Nairobi. Upon arrival this evening, spend the night in the outskirts of Nairobi at the historic Karen Blixen

cottages. **OVERNIGHT, KAREN BLIXEN COTTAGES**

NAIROBI / SAMBURU NATIONAL PARK

Wednesday, September 13 / Friday, September 15

Fly by charter flight to Samburu Game Reserve, situated near Mount Kenya. Morning and afternoon game-viewing drives allow ample time to explore this rugged yet picturesque area and observe its abundant wildlife. **THREE NIGHTS, PRIVATE TENTED CAMP (3B,3L,3D)**

SAMBURU NATIONAL PARK/MOUNT KENYA SAFARI CLUB

Saturday, September 16

This morning depart Samburu and travel to Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain at 17,000 feet. A World Heritage Site, the mountain features a great variety of flora and fauna. Arrive at the world-renowned Mount Kenya Safari Club, the former country retreat of actor William Holden, in time for lunch. Spend the afternoon visiting the animal orphanage of a neighboring ranch and game viewing from the club's platform overlooking a water hole adjacent to the Likii River. **OVERNIGHT, MOUNT KENYA SAFARI CLUB (B,L,D)**

MOUNT KENYA SAFARI CLUB / MPALA RESEARCH CENTRE

Sunday, September 17 & Monday, September 18

After a leisurely morning with time to explore the safari club's grounds, depart after lunch for a drive to the Lakipia Plains, the site of Princeton's Mpala Research Centre. By special permission, on Monday meet Princeton researchers, explore this private wildlife ranch, and learn about the centre's research projects. **TWO NIGHTS, PRIVATE TENTED CAMP AT MPALA RESEARCH CENTER (2B,2L,2D)**

MPALA RESEARCH CENTRE / LAKE NAKURU

Tuesday, September 19 & Wednesday, September 20

This morning drive to the sublime Rift Valley and Lake Nakuru National Park. Awash with pink flamingos, the lake provides spectacular bird-watching opportunities. Game drives offer sightings of Rothschild's giraffe, leopard, lion, black and white Colobus monkey, impala, waterbuck, hippo, and zebra. **TWO NIGHTS, LION HILL LODGE (2B,2L,2D)**

LAKE NAKURU / MAASAI MARA

Thursday, September 21 / Sunday, September 24

Travel to the Maasai Mara, 200 square miles of open plains, woodlands, and riverine forest. Exploring from the group's remote camp set on a secluded stretch of the Talek River yields sightings of a breathtaking array of wildlife, including wildebeest, zebra, buffalo, leopard, lion, cheetah and hippo. In between game drives, learn about and interact with the Maasai people. **FOUR NIGHTS, PRIVATE TENTED CAMP (4B,4L,4D)**

MAASAI MARA / NAIROBI *Monday, September 25*

After a final early morning game drive, fly to Nairobi and then drive to Karen where rooms have been reserved until departure this evening. This afternoon participate in a seminar with local Princeton alumni on the lovely grounds of Baroness Karen Blixen's estate. Later, enjoy a farewell dinner before transferring to the airport for the overnight flight to London. **(B,L,D)**

LONDON / NEW YORK *Tuesday, September 26*

Arrive in London and transfer to a connecting flight to New York or your originating city.

THIS EXCITING PROGRAM INCLUDES

Lectures and field commentary by study leader Howard Ende and local researchers and residents throughout the trip

Thirteen nights accommodations and one day room

Charter flights from Nairobi to Samburu and from the Maasai Mara to Nairobi

All meals, including welcome and farewell dinners

All sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary including national park and reserve entrance fees

Land travel in four-wheel drive Land Cruisers with a roof hatch and window seat for every traveler

Luggage handling in Kenya for those traveling with the group

Siemer & Hand tour manager and local English-speaking drivers/guides throughout the trip

Membership in the Flying Doctors Emergency Medivac service

Pre-trip assistance including suggested reading list and pre-departure information

LAND COST EXCLUDES: International airfare; charges for items of a personal nature including laundry, beverages (except in the private tented camps), and excess baggage charges; independent travel arrangements; travel and accident insurance; gratuities to drivers/guides and camp personnel; passport and visa fees; and inoculations. **HEALTH:** All participants must be in good health. This program is active and involves walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs. Not all locations are handicapped accessible. Any condition that may require special medical attention or other accommodation must be reported at the time of your reservation. **GROUP SIZE:** This tour is based on a minimum of 15 participants and is limited to 26 participants. **DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT:** Reservations will be accepted in order of receipt if accompanied by a completed reservation form and a deposit of \$1,000 per person. Deposits can be made by check made payable to Siemer & Hand Travel, or be paid by credit card. Final payment for all land and air costs is due by July 10, 2006, and must be paid by check. **CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS:** Refunds, less a cancellation fee of \$275 per person, will be made if we are notified on or before July 10, 2006. No refunds will be granted after that date. All cancellations must be in writing to the Alumni Association of Princeton University. **TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Travel insurance is strongly recommended. An insurance form will be sent to participants upon enrollment. **RESPONSIBILITY:** A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of Siemer & Hand Travel, Inc. and the Alumni Association of Princeton University for loss of property, injury, illness or death will be provided to passengers upon enrollment, and is available to prospective travelers upon request. **SIEMER & HAND TRAVEL, INC.:** Seller of fine travel programs since 1959. www.siemerhand.com

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Brochure photos courtesy of Siemer & Hand Travel staff and Africa Expeditions. All photos, with the exception of the Tented Camps section photos, were taken on Siemer & Hand programs.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Land Program Cost:.....\$6,995

Per person, double occupancy

Single Supplement:.....\$ 695

Sample Airfare from New York:.....\$1,372

Airfare is current as of February 2006 and subject to change.

A \$45 service fee per person will be applied to all airline tickets.

RESERVATION FORM

Please make check payable to Siemer & Hand Travel and mail to Princeton Journeys, Princeton University, P.O. Box 291, Princeton, NJ 08542-0291. Fax (609) 258-1281

Enclosed is my deposit for \$____ (\$1,000 per person) to hold ____places(s) on Kenya: **Featuring the Mpala Research Centre**. Or, charge my deposit to:

MC Visa Diner's Club American Express Discover

Card Number _____ Expiration: _____

Signature as it appears on credit card: _____

Name: _____ Princeton Affiliation _____

Name: _____ Princeton Affiliation _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Telephone:

Home: _____ Business: _____

Email: _____

Accommodations:

I wish to have single accommodations at an additional cost of \$695 (subject to availability).

I will share accommodations with: _____

I am willing to share with another participant: (shares cannot be guaranteed)

non-smoker smoker

Please make roundtrip flight arrangements from: _____

I/We have read the General Information section and agree to its terms.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

KENYA

Featuring the Mpala Research Centre



PRINCETON JOURNEYS
A World of Learning

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email journeys@princeton.edu

Photos this page: A local Kenyan; Elephant family (top); Oryx; Cheetah (bottom)

Cover photos: Giraffe; Yellow billed stork; Sleeping lions