The Safari and Conservation Company is acutely aware that Africa is in serious danger of losing its very identity as a wildlife destination unless we can curb the illegal trade of ivory and rhino horn and make space for our wildlife to live along side an ever growing population. As time presses on, we now feel our primary focus must lie with helping those who invest their resources to saving the wildlife.

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DAY 1  Hemingway’s Hotel, Karen, Nairobi

You will be met off your flight and assisted through immigration and luggage collection then driven to Hemingway’s Hotel which is about a 40-minute drive from the airport and a warm welcome awaits you at Hemingway’s, which is consistently rated as one of the best hotels in Nairobi, Kenya and Africa.

They provide personalized butler services, which ensures comfort and luxury for all guests. A 45-room boutique hotel elevates the standard of luxury service for travellers in the region. Beautiful in its symmetry and flooded with natural light, this plantation-style property is airy and spacious. Its 80 square metre bedrooms each have a private balcony overlooking the iconic silhouette of the Ngong Hills.

DAY 2,3&4  Richard’s River Camp, Masai Mara

After breakfast you will be driven to Wilson airport for your charter flight south to the Masai Mara Game Reserve. The guide from Richard’s River Camp will meet you and take you on a game drive to the camp. You will have the chance to discuss with him your itinerary for the next few days, including meeting the Mara Elephant Project team. Getting up early to get the beautiful African light and catch the animals before they head off for the shade.

The original ‘Richard’s Camp’, now called the Forest Camp, was built as the home of the Roberts family in 1980 in the Ol Choro Conservancy located in the North West Masai Mara.

Richard Roberts founded the **MARA ELEPHANT PROJECT** in 2011, which is instrumental in human-wildlife conflict mitigation and anti-poaching through the collaring, monitoring and tracking of elephants. With a dedicated team, MEP is achieving great results in reducing elephant poaching.

**MISSION** “We save and protect the African elephant population in the Mara/Serengeti ecosystem by Enforcing positive human-elephant relations, expelling the ruthless operations of poachers, and reducing the demand for illegal ivory around the world”.

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DAY 5&6 Sirikoi Lodge, Lewa Conservancy

Sirikoi is a family run, award winning eco-lodge set in a grove of trees on the edge of the Sirikoi stream. It is situated in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy which has an abundance of wildlife including the endangered Grevy zebra and black rhino. Visits to see the 3 orphaned black rhinos can be arranged. You will also get the chance to meet some of the team who work around the clock to keep Lewa and it’s wildlife safe from poachers. The team also works closely with the communities surrounding Lewa and there is a strong education component within the Lewa projects.

THE LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY is an award-winning catalyst and model for community conservation, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and features on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s Green List of successful protected areas.

Lewa is the heart of wildlife conservation, sustainable development and responsible tourism in northern Kenya and our successful working model has provided the framework on which many conservation organisations in the region are based.

In 2014, Lewa and Borana formed 93,000 acres of prime black rhino habitat; when they took a bold move to remove the fence separating the two areas to create one conservation landscape for the black rhino habitat.
DAY 7&8 Fly Camp, Sera/Melako

Fly up to Sera Conservancy by helicopter which is a remote, semi desert region of northern Kenya. This is community owned land and inhabited by the Samburu and Boran tribes, who traverse this scrubland in search of grazing and water. This is a land of thorny bush and wide sandy riverbeds (known locally as 'luggas') lined with acacias and doum palms. Fabulous for bird watchers with a multitude of scrub birds, raptors, sand grouse and quealea arriving in their clouds to the waterholes early morning and at dusk, and parrots which feed on the doum palm nuts. The riverbeds are seasonally visited by elephants in search of water and there are resident populations of gerenuk, reticulated giraffe, lesser kudu, oryx, grant’s gazelle, dik dik, leopard, cheetah, hyena, baboons and vervet monkeys. NRT has set up a sanctuary with a small population of Black Rhino which is fenced and monitored.

Walk or drive down the riverbeds on quad bikes for sundowners and camp out under the stars in this stunning but remote region of Northern Kenya.

NORTHERN RANGELANDS TRUST (NRT) was established in 2004. Its mission is to develop resilient community conservancies, which transform people’s lives, secure peace and conserve natural resources. It does this in a number of ways. It raises funds for the conservancies. It provides them with advice on how to manage their affairs. It supports a wide range of training and helps broker agreements between conservancies and investors. It also monitors performance, providing donors with a degree of oversight and quality assurance.
BIG LIFE FOUNDATION was co-founded by photographer Nick Brandt and Richard Bonham.

Since its inception, Big Life has expanded to employ hundreds of local Maasai rangers—with more than 40 permanent outposts and tent-based field units, 13 vehicles, tracker dogs, and aerial surveillance—protecting 2 million acres of wilderness in the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem of East Africa.

Big Life was the first organization in East Africa to establish coordinated cross-border anti-poaching operations.

To date, Big Life's rangers have made over 2,000 arrests and confiscated over 3,000 weapons and poaching tools. Recognizing that sustainable conservation can only be achieved through a collaborative, community-based approach, Big Life uses innovative conservation strategies to address the greatest threats, reduce the loss of wildlife to poaching, combat the ivory trade, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, protect the great predators, and manage scarce and fragile natural resources.

Big Life's goal is to take the successful holistic conservation model established in the Amboseli-Tsavo-Kilimanjaro ecosystem and replicate it across the African continent.

DAY 9&10 OL Donyo Wuas, Chyulu Hills

After an early breakfast you will make for the airstrip for your flight southwest to Ol Donyo Wuas in the Chyulu Hills. You will be met you when you land and take you to the lodge in time for lunch. You will have the chance to discuss with your guide as to when you are able to meet the Big Life team depending on what is happening at the time.

Ol Donyo is a pioneer amongst safari lodges, and a forerunner of sustainable tourism: by working with the local Maasai people, it has been able to blend conservation and livelihood benefits. On the slopes of the Chyulu Hills, this lodge blends contemporary and traditional design. To stay here is a chance to explore Africa in an uncommon way – by horseback or four-wheel drive or in a hide twenty paces from some of the largest elephants in the world. Ol Donyo enjoys a stunning location; with the savannah at its feet stretching as far as the eye can see.
DAY 11&12 Ithumba Hills Lodge, Tsavo East NP

Fly east across Tsavo National Park to Ithumba Hill and land at the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Headquarters. Created to offer increased luxury for guests exploring Tsavo East’s remote northern area whilst enjoying visits to the Trusts Ithumba Elephant reintegration Unit. The orphans come to the water hole at midday to have their bottles of milk and play in the water hole and cover themselves with mud. This is a very endearing scene. Often wild bulls are seen at the waterhole also enjoying a midmorning drink and bath.

In the evening you have a chance to visit the stockades where the orphans come back to their enclosure for their milk feed and put to bed. During the dry season, you can expect a large number of ex-orphans and wild elephants to visit and take advantage of the water provided.

Early the following morning, before the sunrise you have a chance to see the orphans feed and then mingle with the wild elephants before they depart for the day in the bush.

DAVID SHELDRICK WILDLIFE TRUST

Ithumba is one of 3 reintegration units within the Tsavo and Chyulu hills Eco-system. It prepares orphans who have grown up and progressed from the Nairobi nursery to a life where they familiarise themselves with wild elephants and adjust to the harsh conditions of the dry country. Whilst the Sheldrick Trust offers a gentle transition back to the wild, they also perform many more important duties within the park to help protect elephants and other wildlife from poaching. Educational trips for local children is hugely popular and beneficial to they’re understanding of the animals - many of them will never have seen an elephant in the wild let alone close up.
DAY 13 Umani Springs Lodge, Kibwezi

Umani Springs is the newest of the Sheldrick units and an easier environment for elephants who have physical difficulties. After an early morning watching the orphans come out of their stockades and some of the younger ones are given their milk before they all head off into the wild. A very special time of the day, with great excitement amongst the orphans as they disappear with their carers into the Tsavo bush. After breakfast there is a short flight to Umani Springs where there are other released orphans. This is a jewel of a lodge surrounded by springs from the volcanic Chyulu Hills.

This is a perfect place to relax and enjoy the last day of the safari.

Umani Springs offers the epitome of African comfort whilst actively pursuing environmental stability and wildlife preservation. This beautiful self-catering eco-property was constructed with a legacy left to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in support of a better future for the Kibwezi Forest and its denizens.

Gazetted in 1936, the KIBWEZI FOREST is now part of a network of protected zones within the Tsavo Conservation Area under the protection of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and the Kenya Forest Service. The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust has a 30-year concession from the Kenya Forest Service to preserve and protect this unique ground water Forest, having made huge steps since 2011 in reversing the environmental degradation of past years. With this much needed support, the Kibwezi Forest is rapidly regenerating whilst the Trust’s core programmes are achieving great successes.

The forest shares a common boundary with the Chyulu Hills National Park, spanning just under 60km² of diverse groundwater and dry forested habitats underlain by volcanic lava. Of vital importance to the area are the Umani Springs, which are an increasingly important water source for flora, fauna and local communities alike.

This very ancient groundwater forest is famous for its wealth of beautiful butterflies, many of which are endemic specific to that particular area and also for its birdlife.
DAY 14 Departure, Nairobi

Depart mid morning and fly into Wilson airport, Nairobi where you will be met and taken to Hemingway’s where there is a day room reserved for you. In the afternoon your guide will meet you and take to you to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, the headquarters where many new orphans rescued from around the country, are brought back from the brink of death to start their long recovery from psychological trauma and physical hurt, back to a life where they are cared for, loved and ultimately re-taught how to be an elephant. You will see the very new orphans coming in for their evening milk. These are very vulnerable still, having just lost their mother to poaching or some incident and are learning to lead a life without their mother or herd. The carers are very important to these young elephants.

In the evening you will be taken out to Jomo Kenyatta Airport for your flight home.