



CATTARA



Adventures with Insight®

# The Great Walk of Africa

Kenya

Detailed Itinerary

**15** Year  
Anniversary  
&  
Cat's **60th**

---

Another milestone! My 60th and Cattara's 15th Anniversary in 2023! We couldn't have done it without you, our loyal travelers, who have followed us (literally) to the far corners of the globe. We look forward to sharing many more fun & inspiring adventures with you in the years to come.

Thank you!



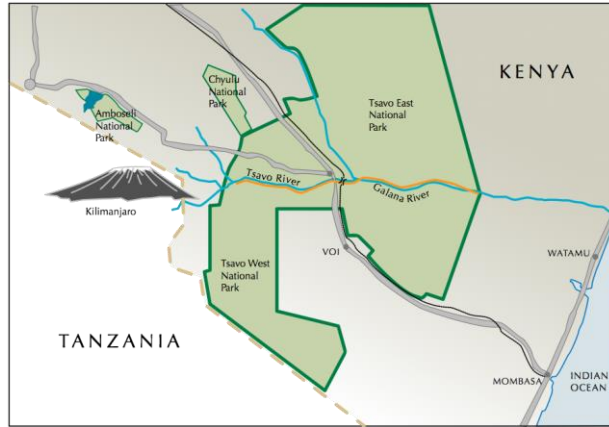
# Great Walk of Africa: The Longest Walk in Africa


In 1997 Tropical Ice embarked upon one of its greatest adventures. A small group trekked all the way from the summit of Kilimanjaro to the beaches of the Indian Ocean. This journey crossed 300 miles of country, took 22 days, and about 90% of the route followed game trails. One member of the expedition, Rick Ridgeway, later wrote a book of this adventure [\*The Shadow of Kilimanjaro\*](#), which has become one of the most successful travel books in North America.

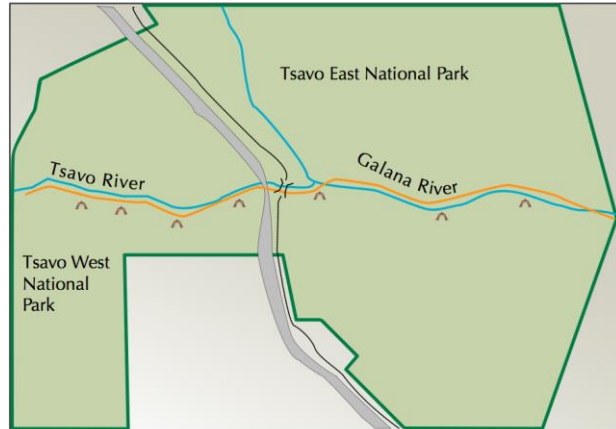
The most exciting part of this journey was the central section, which traversed the whole of Tsavo West and Tsavo East National Parks. In the former, we hiked the entire Tsavo River until it became the Galana River in Tsavo East, which we followed all the way to the edge of the park. This 10 day walk yielded superior game viewing across an ever-changing landscape and it became the **Great Walk of Africa**.







KEY     The Great Walk of Africa     Camp



## **Itinerary Outline**

Day 1:	Hemingways Hotel, Nairobi
Day 2:	Mzima Camp
Day 3:	Kudu Camp
Day 4:	Kichwa Tembo Camp
Day 5:	Maji ya Chumvi Camp
Day 6:	Maneaters Camp
Day 7, 8 & 9:	Epiya Chapeyu Camp
Days 10, 11 & 12:	Durusirkale Camp
Day 13:	Lamu Island, Peponi Hotel
Day 14:	International Departure



## **Day 1: Nairobi, Hemingways Hotel**

Upon your arrival at Nairobi's international airport you will be met by a Tropical Ice representative as you step from the plane. You will then be escorted through immigration, baggage and customs (very tourist-friendly), to your waiting Tropical Ice driver. You will then drive 10 miles (16 km), skirting the city, in a westerly direction to the beautiful Hemingways Hotel in Karen (the hotel is located on Karen Blixen's original farm).

## **Day 2: Mzima Camp**

Early morning transfer to Nairobi's domestic airport where we embark upon our one hour flight to Tsavo. Upon arrival we will have breakfast at Kilaguni Lodge then embark upon the two hour game drive to Mzima Camp. We will have lunch in camp and spend the afternoon resting and familiarizing ourselves with our new environment.

*(The hiking begins on Day 3, and it starts every day at 7:00 am. We invariably reach our next camp between 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm)*

### **Day 3: Kudu Camp**

We rise with first light, and after breakfast we begin our foot safari across the vast 8,000 square mile wilderness that is Tsavo. Our route closely follows the Tsavo River, flanked by rich riverine vegetation, as we walk along hippo trails, winding our way past thickets of acacia, fig and tamarind trees; doum and raffia palms.





They say that in order to experience the wonders of the African bush, it is essential that one does precisely as the animals do. Our daily routine therefore, emulates the schedule of the wildlife. Up at first light, eat a fresh breakfast, and head out along the trail. We reach our camp in time for lunch, followed by a well-earned siesta (the animals insist on this too).



#### **Day 4: Kichwa Tembo Camp**

This region of Tsavo was the location of intense fighting during the First World War, when Tanzania was known as German East Africa and Kenya was British East Africa. The Tsavo River was of vital logistical importance during what would become the battle for Kilimanjaro. It offered, for the British, a well-watered direct route to the mountain, while the Germans were well aware of its comparative easy access to the British railway, which linked the Kenyan coast (Mombasa) to the interior (Nairobi). The Railway track was blown up several times.

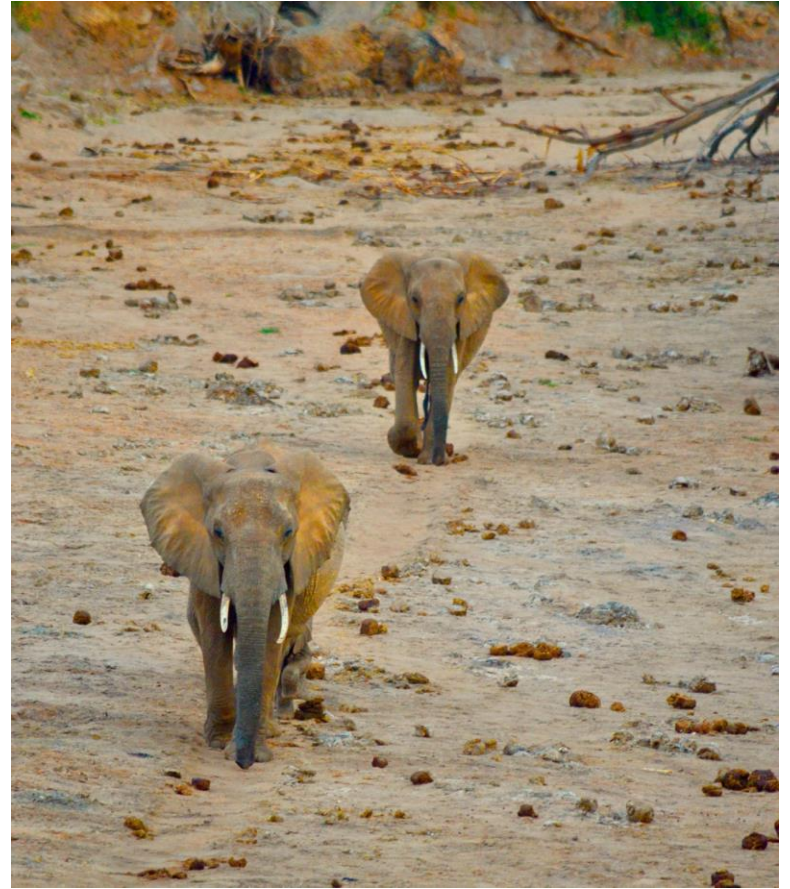
As a result of this the Tsavo River region was heavily fortified, and today many indications of the First World War still exist. Our walk today takes us past Rhodesia Hill, and culminates in an exciting gorge, before reaching our camp.

We have lunch and then a restful afternoon in camp.

## Day 5: Maji Ya Chumvi Camp

We continue along the Tsavo River, through fairly thick, lush riverine forest. As we follow the trail your guide will point out the many animal tracks and spoor along the way. Our walk today takes us away from the mountain as we enter drier country leading to Maji Ya Chumvi (salt water).

As with every day on our foot safari, wildlife can be encountered. Impala, Grant's gazelle, zebra and giraffe are frequently seen. Tsavo is the largest elephant ecosystem in the world, and the Tsavo River is a vital destination for them. After lunch and siesta, we will have a game-drive down the river, returning to camp at dusk.



## **Day 6: Maneaters Camp**

Today the Tsavo River leads us into the area of the famous “Man-eaters of Tsavo”. Our morning walk takes us to the region where in 1896 two lions ruthlessly (and inspiringly), halted the advance of the British Empire literally in its tracks.

During a three month period, while the British were building the railway bridge across the Tsavo River, using imported labourers from India, about 130 men went missing. After an exhaustive effort the bridge engineer, John Patterson, succeeded in killing them.

Again we reach camp in time for lunch, and after a short siesta (today we trounce the wildlife), we continue our foot safari to a point close to the edge of Tsavo West National Park. We are met here by our vehicles and driven back to camp.

Interestingly, this region today sports a large lion population, and we often see them as they take advantage of the shade offered by doum palms on the banks of the river, and hear them at night from our camp.







## **Day 7: Epiya Chapeyu Camp**

We drive the short distance to Tsavo railway station, and continue our walk down the river. Today we enter Tsavo East National Park (owing to the immensity of Tsavo, for administrative purposes, it has been divided into two separate regions: Tsavo West and Tsavo East.)

At this point the Tsavo River makes its way down towards the confluence of the Athi River which flows beneath the prominent Yatta escarpment, where it forms the Galana River.

We reach our waiting vehicles in the late morning, and drive to our camp. After lunch and siesta, we game-drive down the Galana River.



The Galana River is wide, and is characterised by sandy beaches and palm trees. It sports one of the largest lion populations in East Africa, as well as a wealth of plains game (including the very rare Peter's gazelle). Big herds of zebra, hartebeest, impala and fringe-eared oryx are frequently seen along the Galana River.

This is also the region of Tsavo's biggest elephant populations. We game-drive the river in the late afternoon of each day.

To see a herd of elephants, silently loping across the sand to the river's edge, then wading through the water to the distant shore, is a sight which can't be improved. At this point of our safari, one can easily, and naturally, feel as much a part of the wilderness as the wildlife we are seeing. Without doubt our senses have adapted to a state where we can instinctively hear, see, and feel things that no amount of concentration at the beginning of our walk could ever have produced.

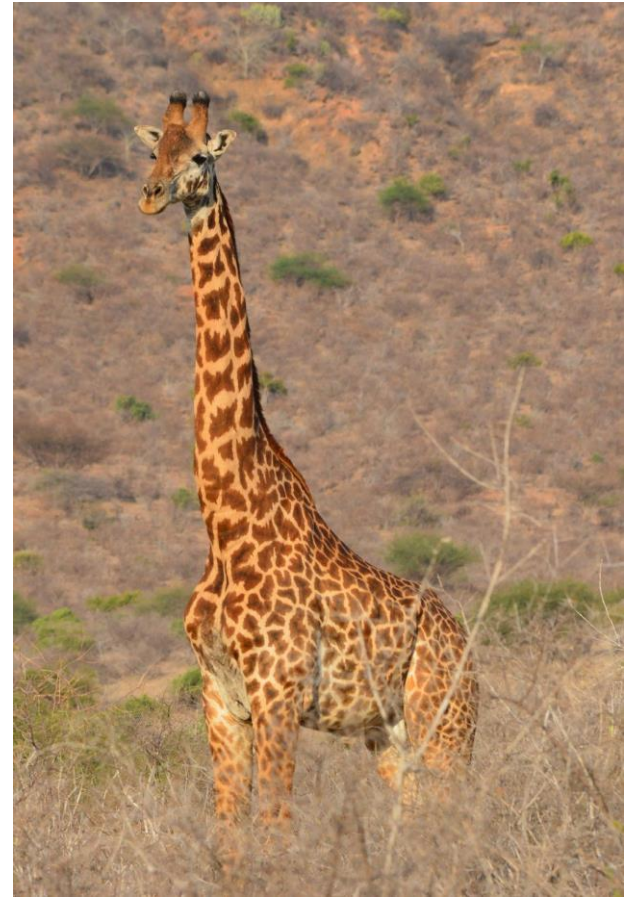
After the morning walk, we drive back to our camp for lunch and a well-earned rest. As is now the norm, we'll game-drive along the river late in the day.

## **Days 8 & 9: Epiya Chapeyu Camp**

After breakfast we drive upriver and start our walk down the Galana River. This, Kenya's most beautiful river, is very different in atmosphere to where we have been. It is wider, palm-fringed, and rich with predators such as lion, leopard and cheetah.

It is now evident that we have entered into a different ecosystem.

The dense undergrowth of Tsavo West has now given way to semi-desert country, bordered to the north by the Yatta escarpment (the longest lava flow on earth – 260 miles in length). In this country, because of its openness, game is easier to see and there is a lot of it.





## **Day 10 & 11: Durusirkale Camp**

We are the only people walking in this region, and our experiences with lions, has enabled us to unravel some of the mysteries surrounding the maneless lions of this area. And there are still many unanswered questions.

We have now amassed a considerable amount of information, and have developed a good idea of where the lions of the Galana are located from month to month. As our foot safari continues down the Galana River it is highly likely we will be able to make contact with some of these lions.

Lunch is in camp, followed by late afternoon game drives.

## **Day 12: Durusirkale Camp**

This is a two-part walking day as we move down river into ever increasing elephant and lion country.

Lunch today will be a picnic in an atmospheric grove of palm trees. We begin the second section of our walk in the mid-afternoon, arriving at the edge of the park about 6.00 p.m.

## **Day 13: Indian Ocean (Peponi Hotel)**

In the morning we will make an early start and drive to the Indian Ocean town of Malindi. We will then make a 25 minute flight northwards to the beautiful island of Lamu, arriving in time for lunch.



## **Day 14: International Departure**

We take the mid-afternoon flight to Nairobi where we have arranged dayrooms at a hotel close to the international airport. Our vehicles will transfer you to the airport for your home bound flight.

*(Please note that our June departures of the Great Walk will not fly to Lamu, but will overnight at Medina Palms at Watamu, a small town 15 miles south of Malindi.*

### **LAMU ISLAND & PEPONI**

We would like to say a few words about Lamu Island, which is where most of our Great Walk of Africa safaris end.

Lamu Island is much more than simply a place to spend the final night on this amazing safari. It is a major Africa destination, offering an incredible insight into the coastal Swahili culture of the East African coast. Lamu Island is what Zanzibar used to be before it fell to mass commercialisation. Lamu Island is much more than a beach destination (although the beaches are beautiful), it is a chance to visit the 14<sup>th</sup> Century town of Lamu, take a guided tour around the labyrinth of narrow streets which make up Old Town, and its coral buildings. This is truly a step back in to a distant past. There are no cars in Lamu, transportation is by donkey or dhow sailing boat.



We stay in what is arguably the best hotel in Kenya: Peponis! This boutique, atmospheric hotel, with amazing food is all that you could ask for.

We are saying this because the majority of our Great Walk visitors feel that a one-night stay on Lamu Island simply is not long enough, and many leave after one night frustrated that it wasn't explained better to them.

We strongly recommend two or three nights at Peponis on Lamu Island – and we dare you to say we're wrong!



*Enjoy your safari!*

## *Cost of safari – USD\$11,500 per person*

### Inclusions

All transport in 4x4 safari vehicles; hotel accommodations; professional guide; fully equipped safari with staff and drivers (porters where applicable); all Park, Camp and Conservation Fees; all food in camps; a complimentary camp bar containing mineral water, sodas, beers, and evening wines; airport transfers as per itinerary; internal flights.

We have not included tips for staff and drivers, we recommend that each person allow US \$250.00 for this. Please allow for at least \$500 for the trip leader/escort, Cathy Ann Taylor. Lamu island is an amazing place, steeped in Swahili culture and history, and we always recommend our clients to extend there at the end of the trip for another day or two. Peponi hotel is, in our opinion, the best in Kenya. The prices are: US\$355.00 (double b+b); US\$280.00 (single b+b).

