



FREQUENTLY ASKED WALKING SAFARI QUESTIONS

WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED?

WE ARE 80 KMS FROM NANYUKI TOWN ON THE BOUNDARY OF LAIKIPIA EAST AND ISILO COUNTY. NO 27.194 E36 57.444

HOW DO WE GET TO THE START OF YOUR WALKING SAFARIS?

- PRIVATE CHARTER FLIGHT TO AN AIRSTRIP WITHIN 45 MINUTES OF MOST CAMPS. TUMAREN HAS IT'S OWN AIRSTRIP.
- SCHEDULED FLIGHT TO NANYUKI OR LOISABA (2 HOUR DRIVE)
- DRIVE FROM NAIROBI (6-7 HOUR DRIVE).

DO YOU USE CARS TO MOVE THE CAMP?

NO, WE MOVE OUR COMPLETE CAMP BY CAMEL TRAIN AND OUR TEAM. THIS MEANS WE CAN OFTEN TRAVEL TO AREAS THAT VEHICLES CANNOT REACH. THE EXCEPTION IS IF WE HAVE 2 NIGHTS WHERE THERE IS NO WATER WE CAN DO A WATER DROP.

HOW MANY CAMELS AND MEN WILL YOU NEED TO MOVE THE CAMP TO A NEW LOCATION EACH DAY?

WE TYPICALLY HAVE BETWEEN SEVEN AND 15 LAIKIPIA MASAI AND SAMBURU STAFF AND 8 TO 20 CAMELS ON ANY ONE SAFARI.

ARE CAMELS BAD NATURED AND DO THEY SPIT?

CAMELS LIKE MOST ANIMALS ARE GOOD NATURED, IF THEY ARE NOT MISTREATED. OUR CAMELS ARE TREATED VERY WELL AND FOR THAT REASON THEY DO NOT HAVE A BAD ATTITUDE TOWARDS PEOPLE OR WORK. OUR CAMELS ARE CUDDLY. CAMELS DO NOT SPIT BUT WILL ONLY REGURGITATE THEIR CUD WHEN THEY ARE STRESSED. THIS HAPPENS RARELY WITH OUR CAMELS, TYPICALLY ONLY WHEN THEY ARE GETTING MEDICATION OR WHEN A YOUNG ONE IS IN TRAINING. CAMELS ARE VERY SOCIALE ANIMALS AND LIKE BEING AROUND PEOPLE. AFTER BEING NEAR OUR CAMELS FOR A FEW DAYS MOST PEOPLE BECOME QUITE ATTACHED, OR AT LEAST PLEASANTLY SURPRISED BY THEM.

HOW MANY RIDING CAMELS WILL THERE BE ON EACH SAFARI?

IT DEPENDS ON THE NUMBER OF GUESTS AND THEIR AGES. WITH LOTS OF CHILDREN ON SAFARI WE HAVE MORE RIDING CAMELS THAN IF THERE WERE JUST TWO ADULTS.

DO WE HAVE TO CARRY OUR OWN WATER AND SNACKS FOR THE WALK EACH DAY?

NO, THE RIDING CAMELS WILL CARRY WATER, JUICE, SNACKS AND THESE ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND WE STOP OFTEN TO KEEP HYDRATED. YOU CAN ALSO PUT YOUR DAYPACK / CAMERA ON THE CAMELS WHEN YOU HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF CARRYING THEM.

HOW FAR DO WE WALK EACH DAY?

TYPICALLY WE WALK BETWEEN 8 AND 20 KM DEPENDING ON THE FITNESS LEVELS OF OUR GUESTS AND THE TERRAIN WE FIND. WE WILL LEAVE BETWEEN 6/7 AM DEPENDING ON THE GUESTS, WEATHER ETC AND ARRIVE AT OUR NEXT CAMP BEFORE LUNCH. USUALLY WALKS ARE ABOUT 4 TO 5 HOURS INCLUDING STOPS FOR WILDLIFE AND REFRESHMENTS.

DO WE HAVE TO BE VERY FIT?

NO, WE CAN DESIGN WALKS FOR EVERY FITNESS LEVEL. WHEN WE WALK IT IS NOT LIKE A MILITARY MARCH. WE PLAN FOR A GREAT DEAL IF STOPPING SO THAT WE HAVE TIME TO LOOK AT ANIMALS, INSECTS AND FLOWERS.

IF WE WOULD LIKE A VEHICLE ON STANDBY IS THIS POSSIBLE?

YES, ESPECIALLY IN AND AROUND TUMAREN. EG. IF GUESTS WANT TO VISIT A MARKET OR SOMETIMES IF WE HAVE VERY SMALL CHILDREN AND THEY ARE TIRED OR WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ELEPHANTS ON OUR ROUTE. OLDER PEOPLE MAY ALSO REQUEST A VEHICLE TO HELP THEM BETWEEN CAMPS AROUND THE TUMAREN AREA.

IF I'M ALLERGIC TO HORSES WILL I ALSO REACT TO CAMELS?

WE DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE BUT WE CAN SAY THAT THREE GUESTS WHO HAVE BEEN ALLERGIC TO HORSES HAVE FOUND NO PROBLEMS AROUND OUR CAMELS.

WHAT IS YOUR SHORTEST WALK?

MINIMUM OF 3 NIGHTS ON A MOBILE WALKING SAFARI LUXURY, CLASSIC OR AIR BNC

MINIMUM OF 2 NIGHTS ON FROM A NON MOBILE CAMP – TUMAREN OR SATELLITE CAMP

WHAT IS YOUR LONGEST WALK?

16 DAYS - BUT WE COULD DO LONGER WITH RESUPPLIES.

WHAT ARE AVERAGE TEMPERATURES?

IT IS GENERALLY DRY AND HOT IN THE DAY WITH TEMPERATURES REACHING 26-30C MAX. BECAUSE WE ARE AT ABOUT 5,000 FEET IN ALTITUDE IT IS ALWAYS COOL IN THE SHADE. AT NIGHT IT CAN GET QUITE COOL, ABOUT 14 C AND WE SUGGEST LONG TROUSERS AND A FLEECE.

WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AGE FOR YOUR WALKING SAFARIS?

WE TAKE CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 5 YEARS OLD AND TAILOR THE WALK TO THE FAMILY. AT THE OTHER END OF THE SPECTRUM OUR OLDEST GUEST WAS 84.

DO WE CAMP IN A NEW PLACE EVERY NIGHT?

TYPICALLY WE DO CAMP IN A NEW CAMPsite EACH NIGHT BUT WITH CHILDREN WHO MIGHT LIKE THE RIVER OR WITH A REQUEST WE CAN STAY AS MANY NIGHTS IN ONE CAMP AS YOU MIGHT LIKE. IT IS QUITE NICE AT THE END OF A TRIP TO BE IN ONE CAMP FOR 2 NIGHTS AND DO ACTIVITIES FROM THERE.

WHAT ARE THE SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS LIKE?

TUMAREN CAMP: LUXURY BEDDING WITH DUVETS, DRESSING GOWNS AND FEATHER PILLOWS.

CLASSIC AND AIR BNC CAMP: SHEETS AND BLANKETS AND FEATHER PILLOWS. COMFORTABLE KING SIZE / TWIN MATTRESSES ON THE GROUND.

BEDS AVAILABLE ON THE MOBILE SAFARI ON REQUEST.

DO WE HAVE TO BRING OUR OWN TOWELS?

NO, WE PROVIDE THESE.

WHAT ARE THE TOILETS LIKE?

THE TOILETS ARE LONG DROP STYLE WITH A COMFORTABLE WOODEN SEAT INSIDE A SIMPLE BOX TENT. THEY ARE FRESHLY DUG EVERY DAY AND OUTSIDE EACH TOILET IS A RINSING BASIN.

WHAT ARE THE SHOWERS LIKE?

THE SHOWERS LIKE THE TOILETS ARE SIMPLE TENTS OPEN AT THE TOP FOR A HUNG BUCKET SHOWER. THE SHOWERS ARE SUPPLIED WITH HOT WATER THAT IS HEATED OVER THE FIRE AND CAN BE PROVIDED AS ORDERED.

DO WE PROVIDE SHAMPOO?

YES AND NO.

AT TUMAREN CAMP WE PROVIDE SOAP AND SHAMPOO.

ON THE WALKING SAFARIS WE PROVIDE SOAP ONLY.

WHO ARE THE GUIDES ON THE SAFARI?

OUR SAFARIS ARE GUIDED BY EITHER JAMES CHRISTIAN OR KERRY GLEN, THE OWNERS OF KARISIA WALKING SAFARIS; OR ELSE BY GABRIEL EWOI, JOSEPH KAMOTHO, PAUL SHILLINGI, ANDREW LOKAAL AND ADDAN NARERIO.

HAVE THEY DONE A FIRST AID COURSE?

YES, OUR GUIDES ARE ALL TRAINED IN WILDERNESS FIRST AID.

HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD?

WE USE CELL PHONES MORE AND MORE AND ALSO WE CARRY RADIOS TO SPEAK TO OUR SECURITY TEAM AS WELL AS SATELLITE PHONES TO CONTACT EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOULD WE EVER HAVE A PROBLEM AND THERE IS NO CELL NETWORK.

CAN WE CHECK OUR EMAILS ON SAFARI?

THIS IS ONLY POSSIBLE WHEN WE PASS THROUGH AREAS WITH NETWORK, WHICH IS NOT GUARANTEED. IF IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT SOMEONE NEEDS TO COLLECT EMAILS WE CAN MAKE A PLAN WITH OUR OFFICE AND GET THE INFORMATION THROUGH. TUMAREN CAMP HAS A WIFI TENT AT THE OFFICES, A SHORT WALK FROM THE TENTS.

WHAT ARE THE INSECTS LIKE?

THE DRY CLIMATE MEANS WE HAVE VERY FEW INSECTS THAT ARE NOTICEABLE. WE DO HAVE TICKS AT SOME TIMES OF THE YEAR IN THE GRASS BUT THESE CAN BE EASILY SPOTTED AND CONTROLLED BY SPRAYING ONE'S SOCKS, SHOES AND LEGS WITH INSECT REPELLANT.

IS THERE MALARIA IN YOUR AREA?

NO RESPONSIBLE OPERATOR IN HERE IN KENYA WOULD EVER SAY THEY DID NOT HAVE MALARIA FOR FEAR OF THE OFF CHANCE THAT A CASE APPEARS AMONG ONE OF THEIR GUESTS. AS RESIDENTS IN LAIKIPIA WE DO NOT WORRY ABOUT MALARIA BUT THOSE VISITING OTHER PARTS AT A LOWER ALTITUDE SHOULD CONSIDER MALARIA PROPHYLACTICS.

WHAT IS THE FOOD LIKE ON SAFARI?

WE CAN CATER TO ALL DIETS AND EVERYTHING IS FRESHLY BAKED AND PREPARED EACH DAY. WE SERVE LOTS OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. THE FOOD IS ALWAYS TASTY AND DELICIOUS.

HOW DO WE FIT A KARISIA WALKING SAFARIS INTO A LARGER ITINERARY?

THIS SAFARI FITS IN WELL WITH A CAMP IN MERU, BORANA, LEWA, OL PEJETA AREA FIRST AND THEN COMING ON TO LAIKIPIA FOR A WALKING SAFARI AND THEN FLYING ON TO THE MARA OR TAVO. IF YOU HAVE PEOPLE WANTING TO ESCAPE WINTER FOR A WEEK THEY CAN COME WALKING AND END UP AT A LAIKIPIA LODGE OR CAMP. PLEASE ASK ME FOR SPECIFICS AND HOW IT WORKS BEST WITH SCHEDULE FLIGHTS, DRIVES AND CHARTERS.

IS IT OK FOR KIDS?

KIDS LOVE THIS SAFARI, THEY ARE OUTDOORS ALL DAY, RIDING CAMELS, FISHING, TRACKING, CLIMBING ROCKS AND LEARNING FROM OUR LAIKIPIA MASAI TRACKERS. WE DO SHORT WALKS AND OFTEN CAMP IN ONE SPOT TWICE AND DO ACTIVITIES FROM THAT CAMP BEFORE MOVING ON.

WOULD I ENJOY A WALKING SAFARI WITH MY FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE, WE ARE TURNING 50 THIS YEAR AND LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

YES, YOU WOULD LOVE THIS SAFARI. WALKING IN THE MORNING HOURS AND RELAXING DURING THE HEAT OF THE DAY WITH A COLD BEER OR GLASS OF WINE AND THEN GOING ON AN EVENING WALK LOOKING FOR WILDLIFE AND ENJOYING SUNDOWNERS ON TOP OF A ROCK. OVER A FEW DAYS YOU LOSE TRACK OF TIME AND GET TO HAVE QUALITY TIME WITH YOUR FRIENDS WHILE BEING WELL LOOKED AFTER IN A BEAUTIFUL PLACE.

WHAT EXTRA ACTIVITIES APART FROM WALKING AND CAMEL RIDING ARE AVAILABLE?

PLEASE ENQUIRE ABOUT WHICH ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR WALK / STAY AND IF THERE ARE ANY EXTRAS. ROCK CLIMBING - TOP ROPE WITH TRAINED GUIDES. MARKET VISITS - TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS. SCHOOL VISITS. MANYATTA VISIT. BEADING. TRACKING. BABOON RESEARCH VISIT, MPALA RESEARCH CENTRE VISIT.

WHAT WILL I SEE ON SAFARI?

MAMMALS:

GUENTHER'S DIKDIK, STEINBUCK, KLIPSPRINGER, THOMPSON'S GAZELLE, GRANT'S GAZELLE, GERENUK, IMPALA, HIGHLAND HARTEBEEST, BEISA ORYX, WATERBUCK, ELAND, BUSHBUCK, LESSER KUDU, RETICULATED GIRAFFE, ELEPHANT, COMMON ZEBRA, GREVY'S ZEBRA, HIPPO, LION, LEOPARD, CHEETAH, CARACAL, SERVAL CAT, WILDCAT, SPOTTED HYENA, STRIPED HYENA, AARDWOLF, WILDDOG, BLACK-BACKED JACKEL, BAT-EARED FOX, WHITE-TAILED MONGOOSE, DWARF MONGOOSE, SLENDER-TAILED MONGOOSE, GENET CAT, BUSHBABY, AARDVARK, PORCUPINE

BIRDS:

OSTRICH, KORI BUSTARD, VON DER DECKEN'S HORNBILL, WHITE-BELLIED GO-AWAY BIRD, VITELLINE MASKED WEAVER, SPOTTED THICKKNEE, ROSY-PATCHED BUSHSHRIKE, EASTERN CHANTING GOSHAWK, TAWNY EAGLE, BATELEUR EAGLE, MARICO SUNBIRD, RED-FRONTED WARBLER, RUFous CHATTERER, D'ARNAUD'S BARBET

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:

GARMANI TOAD, BUBBLING KASSINA, CRYPTOTYSIS SANDFROG, PICTURATUS DWARF GECKO, BROOKS GECKO, VARIABLE SKINK, RED-HEADED AGAMA, ELEMENTAITA AGAMA, LONG-TAILED LIZARD, SIDE- STRIPED CHAMELEON.

