

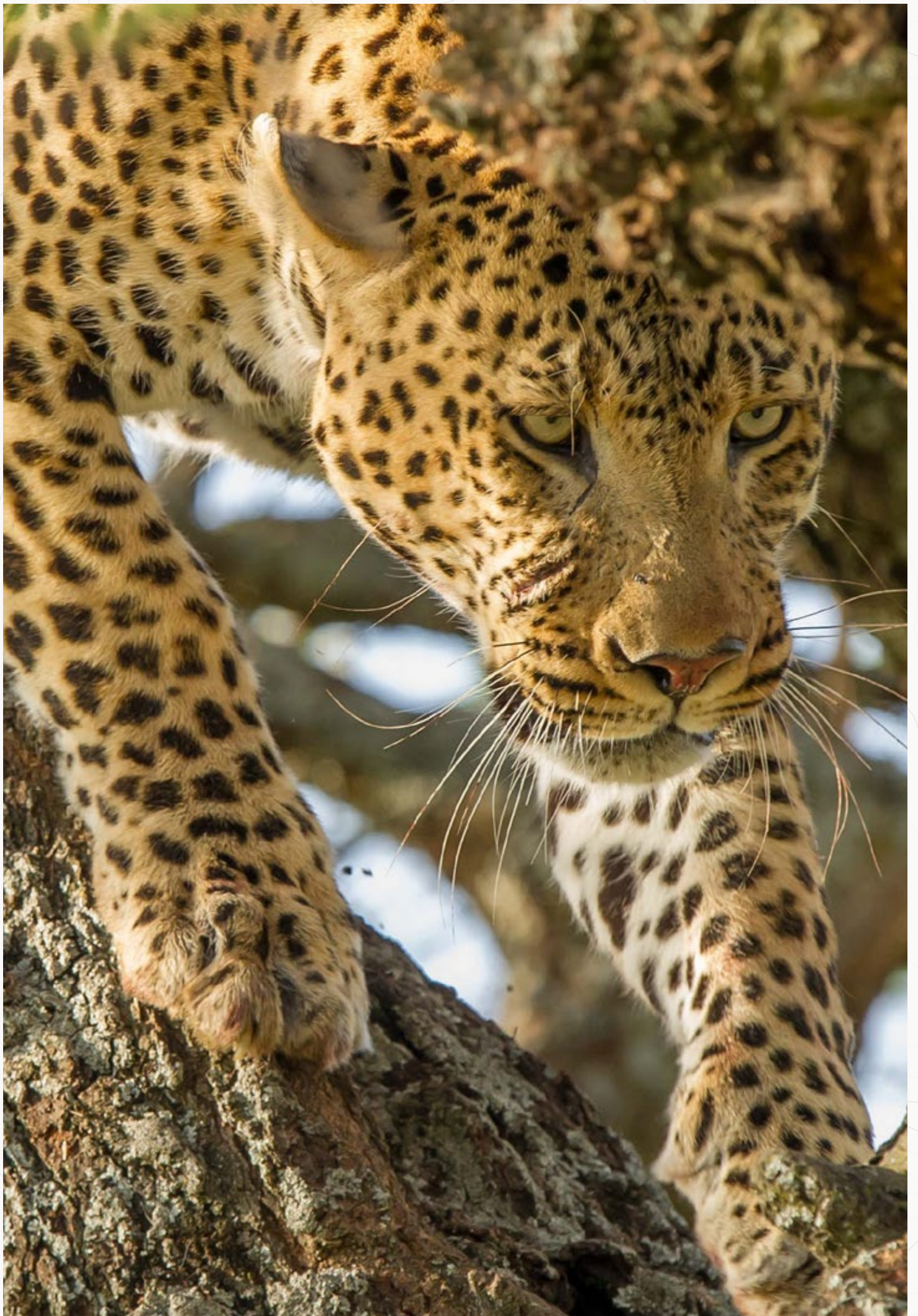
SKYSAFARI

ABOVE AND BEYOND

When to SkySafari

Choosing when to go on safari is your first challenge. But know this: East Africa will always blow your mind.







Peak season for encountering the wildlife of Kenya and Tanzania is considered to be July to October and for good reason. This is when millions-strong herds of game move between the Masai Mara and Serengeti, and when the plains are dry, sun-baked, cloudless and clear – all the better for spotting wildlife.

But that doesn't mean this is the only time to travel. Different months bring different specialties. For example, in the greener season, a new cast of birds arrive. Baby animals are born. Rains see rivers fill and forests erupt, painting the red-ochre savannah in bright blues and blazing greens. Other phenomena can be witnessed: courtship displays, mass calvings, species gatherings, mini migrations. This is a circle of life: there is always something happening, somewhere. And we'll make sure you find it.

Of course, thanks to the exclusivity of the SkySafari experience and the remote locations of our camps, you won't feel cramped even in peak season – the only

crowds will be the masses of animals, converging on the plains. But there's an extra frisson of knowing you're out in the wilderness when few others are; that you're witnessing a wildlife experience that few do; that you have even more of this great wilderness to yourself.

As an added bonus, travelling off season can mean lower rates, making that priceless safari even better value for money. Who doesn't like getting their luxury for a little less?

To help you plan, we've put together a calendar of highlights...

Tarangire National Park

All-season Superstar

Dotted with baobabs and shimmering acacias, often overlooked Tarangire is quiet year-round, even in the 'busy' season.

July - October

During the dry season, Tarangire surpasses even the Serengeti in terms of density of life. The perennial waters of the Tarangire River draw huge herds, the park's animal populations swelled by mini-migrations of wildebeest and zebra that join an abundance of elephants – it's not uncommon to see herds of 50 or more at the waterholes. There are permanent resident populations of other species too, from predators – lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena, hunting dog – to mammals rarely seen in other nearby parks, such as kudu and fringe-eared oryx.

November - June

During Tanzania's 'greener' months, the park is lush and vibrant. This is also prime bird-watching time, as migratory birds arrive from the north. While Tarangire's game tends to be more spread out over these periods, that means it's often seen roaming right around the camp, offering thrilling close-ups. Plus, in June and November, the park sees a 'mini migration,' as animals move between Tarangire and Lake Manyara.

Lake Manyara National Park

Something for Every Season

This national park, nestled at the foot of the Great Rift Valley ridge, is two-thirds covered by its eponymous lake – the 'loveliest in Africa,' according to Ernest Hemingway.

Year-round

There's no bad time to visit this diverse National Park – there's always something to be seen amid its open grasslands, swamps, riverine forest and rocky outcrops.

Game-viewing is perhaps slightly better during the dry months, when vegetation is more sparse, but the park is most spectacular during the wet, when waterfalls gush down the escarpment, the flora is gloriously green and the birdlife prolific – over 380 species have been spotted here. Plus flamingos add a flush a colour and the boisterous hippo population chortles away year-round.



Ngorongoro Crater

Unending Festival of Wildlife

The UNESCO-listed Ngorongoro Crater – dubbed the 'Eighth Wonder of the World' – is a natural amphitheatre with one of the densest populations of large animals anywhere year-round.

Year-round

Rich soils and permanent water sources mean Ngorongoro is an ideal habitat for a huge variety of species in every season – most of the 30,000-odd animals found here are resident year-round. That includes the Big Five (Ngorongoro is one of the few places where you can see rhino in northern Tanzania) as well as hippo, hyena and cheetah, baboons and vervet monkeys, waterbuck, warthog and Thomson's gazelle. Ngorongoro Crater is also the only spot in Africa where you might see all three species of jackal.

From December to March, animal numbers are further bolstered as the Great Migration spills in, bringing even greater numbers of zebras and wildebeest to the crater floor.



Serengeti

The Great Circle of Life

There's always a good place to be in the vast Serengeti: this is an enormous ecosystem of many fascinating moving parts.

July-October

The peak months for the Great migration are magnificent indeed: the mass exodus of 1.5 million wildebeest together with half a million zebra and gazelle on their eternal search for water and pasture is one of the greatest natural spectacles on earth.

It is during this time that vast herds reach the Tanzanian border and cross the rivers into the Masai Mara and back. And, as the endless grunting masses run their watery gauntlet, lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and crocodile lie waiting, ready to pounce. Game drives often provide raw and riveting sightings of these attacks.

November -March

Off-season? No chance. These months see the climax of the Great Migration, as the huge herds gather on the grass-rich plains of the Southern Serengeti to feed and calve. Hundreds of thousands of wildebeest, dotted as far as the eye can see, give birth over a period of a few months.

April-June

These are generally the wettest months, but also the most intense. After a downpour – usually short and full of drama – the greens are more vivid, the rivers fit to burst, the clouds theatrical, the colours never more fierce.

This is also when the action is beginning. The wildebeest start gathering together before moving off in their thousands-long trains, weaving this way and that, and peeling off on a whim, in comedic fashion. This is when the young calves are taking their first steps, gambolling and play-fighting. And when the predators follow, keen to pick off an easy meal...



Amboseli National Park

Changing Drama Beneath a Constant Peak

Chock-full of wildlife and sitting in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro, Amboseli is a photographer's paradise.

July-October

The high-season months see wildlife in Amboseli congregate around very few waterholes – making it easier to spot. This includes impressive herds of elephant as well as lion, leopard, cheetah, buffalo and other savannah game, roaming before a backdrop of Africa's highest mountain.

November-June

The onset of winter in Europe brings migratory bird species to Amboseli, making it a thrilling ornithological destination, especially from October to April. Rains bring renewed life to the plains, transforming the landscape into a lush expanse of green, while making the wildlife viewing extremely rewarding: you may witness a newborn zebra foal take its first steps on wobbly legs, a baby Thomson's gazelle hiding to elude predators or a mother elephant tenderly caring for her young calf.

This is also when views of Kilimanjaro are at their best: after a downpour, when the air is free of dust, the mountain looms clearer than ever.

Loisaba Conservancy

Supporting Conservation Year-Round

This pioneering conservancy located high on the Laikipia Plateau is one of only a few places in Africa where wildlife numbers are on the increase.

July-October

The dry months see the plateau rife with life – sunny skies, diminishing waterholes and sparse undergrowth make it easier to spot the menagerie: from the Big Five to endangered species such as Grevy's zebra and reticulated giraffe. Laikipia is also one of the best places to see wild dogs.

November-June

While wetter conditions have an effect, there is still an immense amount to see during the 'low season' months, from newborns to migratory birds. The wealth of activities on offer – from camel treks to mountain-bike rides – also keeps things interesting, regardless of the weather. Plus, after rain, the landscape is jungly and fragrant, and the sky washed clear, provides pin-sharp views of Mount Kenya.



Masai Mara National Reserve

Guaranteed Wildlife Everywhere

Nowhere in Africa is wildlife more abundant than the Masai Mara National Reserve.

July-October

During the dry season, it can be hard to know where to look: there is wildlife everywhere. As the vegetation dies back and the animals gather around the waterholes, it's easier to spot wildlife than not. And with more variation of species per square metre here than anywhere else in Africa, you'll tick a lot off your list: herds of elephant browsing the tree-studded grasslands, Thomson's gazelle, zebra, eland and more roaming the savannah, and predatory lion, leopard and cheetah on the hunt.

This is also when you're likely to witness the Great Migration: more than a million wildebeest moving en-mass across the plains, one of the most breathtaking sights in nature.

November-June

There is no such thing as a dull month in the Masai Mara. All year round the reserve is rich in resident wildlife, which is largely relaxed and easy to spot on the Mara's expansive, open savannah. Also, the park is far less busy during this so-called 'low' season, making intimate animal encounters more likely. You'll barely see another vehicle as you drive amid the lush grasses, wildflowers and influx of over-wintering birds.





The background of the entire page is a dark blue, textured pattern resembling a topographic map or contour lines. The lines are concentric and wavy, creating a sense of depth and movement. The pattern is more dense in the center and becomes more sparse towards the edges.

SKYSAFARI

ABOVE AND BEYOND

reservations@skysafari.com Tanzania. +255 782 600 049 Kenya +254 702 594 424
www.skysafari.com