

EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JUNE 11-21, 2025

with optional
Amboseli Post-Tour

KENYA SAFARI: THE BIG 5

Black Rhino | Leopard | Elephant | Buffalo | Lion



Orbridge

EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Venture with us into the heart of Kenya's wilderness, gaining unparalleled access to its national parks, reserves, and conservancies. This 11-day epic journey provides numerous opportunities to witness The Big 5 (endangered black rhino, leopard, elephant, buffalo and lion) and a plethora of other wildlife in their natural environment.

Trek aboard 4x4 safari vehicles through the savanna plains during legendary game drives with expert guides who will enrich your experience through their knowledge, dedication and enthusiasm. Also visit conservation organizations that play pivotal roles in rescuing and rehabilitating at-risk wildlife, protecting endangered species, educating the youth, and preserving the ecosystems and biodiversity of the region. During community visits, engage with locals for a deeper understanding of their rich cultures and vibrant traditions.

After exhilarating days of exploration, retreat to luxurious lodges and tented camps, each offering exceptional hospitality and superior amenities.

Space is limited. With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly. To reserve, visit uillinois.orbridge.com, call (866) 639-0079 or return the attached reservation form.

Sincerely,



David Bambrey
President
University of Illinois Alumni Association
<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>



Kenya Safari: The Big 5 | Itinerary and Highlights *(subject to change)*

Locations selected for this safari promise excellent viewing of wildlife, however, spotting specific wildlife cannot be guaranteed. Some activities are dependent on weather and seasonal conditions.

Day 1: EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

Day 2: **ARRIVE IN NAIROBI, KENYA** After an evening arrival to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with group transfers to the hotel. Settle into your five-star accommodations.
Overnight: Fairmont The Norfolk

Day 3: **NAIROBI** Following breakfast and a welcome briefing by your Orbridge Expedition Leader, depart for Sheldrick Wildlife Trust—considered the most successful orphaned elephant and rhino rescue and rehabilitation program in the world. Next visit the home of the Rothschild Giraffe at the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife Giraffe Centre, whose mission is to educate Kenyan youth about their country's wildlife and environment. Afterward take a short drive to the foot of the Ngong Hills to see Karen Blixen's farm house.
Overnight: Fairmont The Norfolk (B,L,D)

Day 4: **NAIROBI | SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE** Considered among the best wildlife reserves in Africa, Samburu is famous for its diverse and abundant wildlife. Set out on an immersive game drive with expert guides.
Overnight: Soroi Samburu Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 5: **SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE** Prepare for an enriching full day exploring more areas within the reserve during morning and afternoon game drives.
Overnight: Soroi Samburu Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 6: **SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE | LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK** Depart for Lake Nakuru National Park—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Head out on a guided game drive and learn about the park's preservation initiatives.
Overnight: Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge (B,L,D)

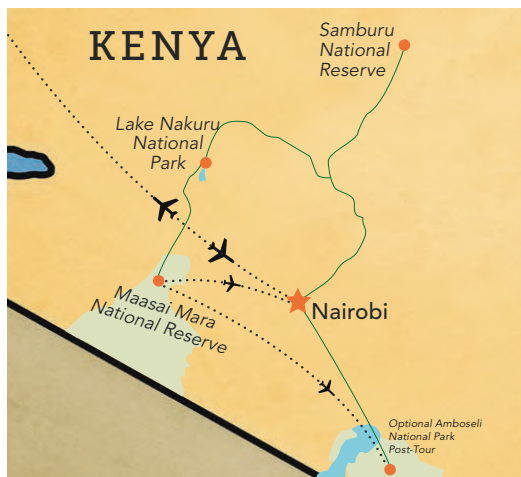
Day 7: **LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK | MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE** Travel along the Rift Valley's western rim into the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Later get a front-row seat to the drama of the African wilderness during an exciting game drive.
Overnight: Mara Engai Lodge (B,L,D)

Days 8-9: **MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE** Immerse yourself in the vast plains of the reserve during two full days of wildlife viewing. On the final evening gather together for a festive bush dinner.
Overnight: Mara Engai Lodge (B,L,D daily)

Day 10: **MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE | FLIGHT TO NAIROBI | DEPART FOR U.S.** After breakfast return to Nairobi where you'll have access to a day room at the hotel until transferring to the airport for evening flights home.
Day Room: Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport (B,L)

Day 11: EN ROUTE | ARRIVE IN U.S.

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)



Maasai Mara Sunrise Safari

While in Maasai Mara National Reserve (days 8-9), take a once-in-a-lifetime sunrise safari by hot air balloon. During this optional excursion, ascend above the reserve at dawn for an exclusive birds-eye view of wildlife roaming the expansive landscape.

This excursion must be purchased from Orbridge Guest Services in advance to guarantee availability. Purchase is non-refundable inside 90 days from departure.



What's Included

- 8 nights accommodations at deluxe lodges and tented camps—all carefully selected to emphasize wildlife viewing and amenities—plus a day room on departure day
- 8 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 7 dinners including a special farewell dinner
- Expert naturalist guides throughout
- Daily game drives in open-air vehicles with filtered water provided
- Maasai Mara National Reserve visitation fees, which are paid directly to the Narok County Government in support of tourism and conservation efforts of the Maasai Mara ecosystem and wildlife
- Internal airfare from Maasai Mara to Nairobi
- All main program gratuities, as well as taxes, service charges and park fees
- Temporary membership in AMREF Flying Doctors air ambulance service
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



Activity Level: This safari program requires an ability to walk safely over uneven and slippery ground without assistance, transport luggage a short distance, get in and out of a 4x4 vehicle, and physically tolerate vehicle motion on sometimes bumpy roads. Highest elevation: 5,500 feet.



Accommodations *(subject to change)*

FAIRMONT THE NORFOLK

Dating back to 1904, this landmark property combines old world charm with elegant modern amenities. During leisure time, explore the expansive tropical gardens or take a dip in the heated outdoor pool.



SOROI SAMBURU LODGE

Well-appointed tents at this brand new property offer the comforts of home, providing a serene spot to relax after an exciting day of wildlife viewing and exploration.



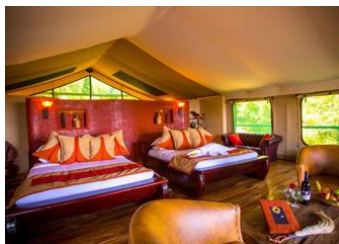
LAKE NAKURU SOPA LODGE

The property offers an inviting outdoor infinity pool, plus a lounge, bar and dining room, each featuring extensive outdoor sheltered terraces—ideal for spotting an incredible variety of wildlife, including white and black rhinos and the rare Rothschild giraffes.



MARA ENGAI LODGE

Stunning views, spectacular wildlife, sumptuous food, and a cheerful staff combine for a fantastic stay at the Mara Engai Lodge. Relax in large, luxurious tented suites with waterfall showers and private verandas at this unique property nestled within the forest and overlooking the amazing Maasai Mara National Reserve.



Optional Post-Tour Amboseli

Experience the magnificent landscapes of Amboseli National Park, set against the iconic backdrop of towering Mount Kilimanjaro. The park is known as the best place in the world to see free-ranging elephants in ultra-close proximity.



Day 10: FLIGHT FROM MAASAI MARA TO AMBOSELI
Arrive to Amboseli in time for lunch, then set off on an afternoon game drive. Return to the lodge where the remainder of the day is yours to explore the grounds and take advantage of the property's amenities.
Overnight: Ol Tukai Lodge (L,D)

Day 11: AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK Today includes two game drives through Amboseli National Park to spot for African wildlife. At little more than 150 square miles, Amboseli is relatively small, but its high concentration of wildlife makes for excellent viewing opportunities. In addition to its many elephants, the park is also home to Cape buffaloes, impalas, cheetahs, spotted hyenas, Maasai giraffes, Grant's zebras, blue wildebeest, more than 100 lions and more than 400 bird species.
Overnight: Ol Tukai Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 12: AMBOSELI | TRANSFER TO NAIROBI | DEPART FOR U.S. After breakfast, return to Nairobi where you'll have access to a day room at the hotel to rest until transferring to the airport for evening flights home.
Day Room: Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport (B,L)

Day 13: EN ROUTE | ARRIVE IN U.S.

Activity Level: This post-tour requires an ability to walk over uneven, sometimes slippery ground and get in and out of a 4 X 4 vehicle.

What's Included

- Internal airfare from Maasai Mara to Amboseli
- 2 nights at Ol Tukai Lodge (or similar) plus a day room on departure day
- 2 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- Admission to Amboseli National Park
- 3 guided game drives
- All excursion transportation
- Airport transfer for guests departing at the suggested times



KENYA SAFARI: THE BIG 5

JUNE 11-21, 2025

Amboseli Post-Tour: June 20-23, 2025

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: uillinois.orbridge.com

Phone: (866) 639-0079

Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Check:

Made payable to **Orbridge, LLC**

Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 1376

Poulsbo, WA 98370

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

Check ACH (Automated Clearing House) MasterCard/Visa American Express Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:

Category Preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

_____ guests joining program (\$850/person) \$ _____

_____ guests joining post-tour (\$500/person) \$ _____


KENYA OPTIONAL EXCURSION (added to your final invoice) — **book early; limited space available:**

_____ guests joining Hot Air Balloon Safari (\$559/person)

TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$ _____

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$7,699	\$7,195
Deluxe Double	\$8,699	\$8,195
Single	\$10,199	\$9,695
Deluxe Single	\$11,199	\$10,695

Deluxe categories include upgrades at Fairmont The Norfolk (to Junior Suite), Soroi Samburu Lodge (to Superior Tent) and Mara Engai Lodge (to Deluxe Tent). Availability is limited.

Amboseli Post-Tour

Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$3,099	\$2,895
Single	\$4,099	\$3,895

Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars.

*Special group rate; limited offer. Single availability limited. Airfare not included. Internal airfare from Maasai Mara to Nairobi is included. Airfare otherwise not included. For the post-tour, internal airfare from Maasai Mara to Amboseli is included. Airfare otherwise not included. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of reading and resources tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per household will be sent upon receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.

CUT HERE

University of Illinois Alumni Association
EXPLORERS Travel Program
Alice Campbell Alumni Center
601 S. Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

What Guests Are Saying...

You can always count on U of I EXPLORERS trips for interesting sites, quality tours, and fun companions!

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

I always enjoy being with fellow alumni and making new friends when visiting a new location.

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

Orbridge is an amazing company, I really appreciate and enjoy their approach to the details and comfort of our trip.

~UIAA EXPLORERS Traveler

KENYA SAFARI: THE BIG 5

JUNE 11-21, 2025

Special Alumni Rate:

Save more than \$1,000 per couple

30-DAY REFUND GUARANTEE

FREE EXPEDITION LIBRARY
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY
RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve by
March 28, 2025**

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