

EAST AFRICA

16 DAYS



- Each departure limited to 16 guests
- Luxury hotels or best accommodation in each location
- 40 à la carte meals (table d'hôte, if unavailable) including beverages of your choice
- Professionally escorted
- All sightseeing (including entrance fees), game viewing and special events as indicated in the itinerary
- Arrival and departure transfer by private car
- Gratuities included (also your tour manager's) except camp staff and guide/driver
- Porterage of 2 suitcases per passenger
- Airport departure taxes

The word safari means “we go” in Swahili, and on this journey you have an opportunity to do just that. After flying to Nairobi, you stay at the famous **Treetops Lodge** in the Aberdare National Park, where you view elephant, lion, rhino, and buffalo. You go on to the Masai Mara National Reserve and see an incredible variety of wildlife from a hot air balloon as you “sail” over the plains. You visit the Ngorongoro Crater, the “eighth wonder” of the world, and Olduvai Gorge, where the Leakeys made their amazing discovery – homo habilis. Continuing on to the renowned Serengeti, in Tanzania, you have an opportunity to observe the vast numbers of wild game as well as to see the result of the valuable work being done today to preserve the wildlife in this park. If you don't have to head back home, take a few extra days and fly on to Zanzibar Island.

Day 1 (Saturday)

USA – LONDON

Depart the States for your overnight flight to London.

Day 2 (Sunday)

LONDON – NAIROBI

Upon your early morning arrival in London, your dayroom at a nearby hotel is available to you for your convenience. Your onward flight to Nairobi departs in the evening.

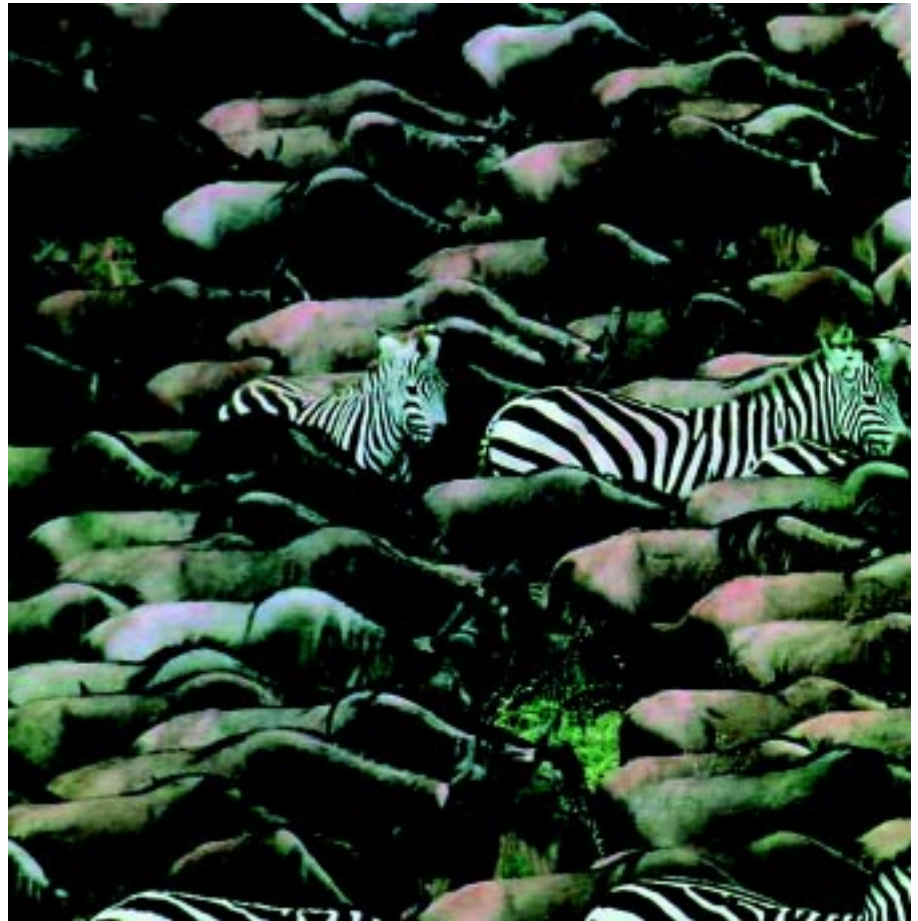
Day 3 (Monday)

NAIROBI

Arriving at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, you are escorted to the **Norfolk Hotel**, a beautifully restored turn-of-the-century, Tudor-style hotel. This is one of the world's most romantic hotels. The afternoon is yours to settle in and relax on one of four sun terraces overlooking the pool or perhaps stroll along the numerous walkways in the garden.

Founded in the late 1890s in an area once occupied by the pastoral Masai tribe, Nairobi was a British railroad camp for the Mombasa – Uganda railroad. It was a British provincial capital until 1905 when the city became capital of the British East Africa Protectorate (called Kenya Colony until 1963). In 1963, Nairobi became the capital of independent Kenya.

COMBINE THIS TRIP WITH THE SEYCHELLES OR ZANZIBAR !



Zebras in a herd of wildebeest



Lions

This evening, join your travel companions and tour manager for a private cocktail reception and à la carte dinner at the hotel, which offers local and international specialties. (B,L,D)

Day 4 (Tuesday)

NAIROBI

Today you drive to the outskirts of the city to the Karen Blixen Museum, adjacent to the Ngong Hills, former residence and gardens of the Danish author. She lived here between 1914 and 1931, when she owned and managed her coffee farm. After her return to Denmark, she wrote about her life in her book, "Out of Africa". You also visit the Giraffe Manor where you see the famous "Daisy" Rothschild Giraffe roam freely on the grounds.

This evening, you make your dinner selection from the à la carte menu at Carnivore, set in lovely gardens. This restaurant is well known for its delicious barbecued meat specialties. (B,L,D)

Day 5 (Wednesday)

NAIROBI – TREETOPS

Driving out of Nairobi this morning, you travel northward toward Nyeri, and the village of Mweiga, to the Aberdare National Park. The Aberdares are actually three mountain peaks; you stay at the renowned **Treetops Lodge** in the area known as the Salient on the eastern side of the park. The park includes a high mountain rain forest, open land with woodland, and a thick bamboo forest. Treetops has lounges and decks built atop a grove of cape chestnut trees, overlooking a waterhole and salt lick, as well as the magnificent snowy peaks of Mount Kenya. You have a unique opportunity to view some of Africa's "Big Five" as they come to feed during the afternoon and evening – elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo, leopard. Some

rare animals such as bongo (an antelope whose habitat is the forest) and giant forest hogs can also be seen. Photographers favor the open balconies and ground-level blinds at each end of the lodge.

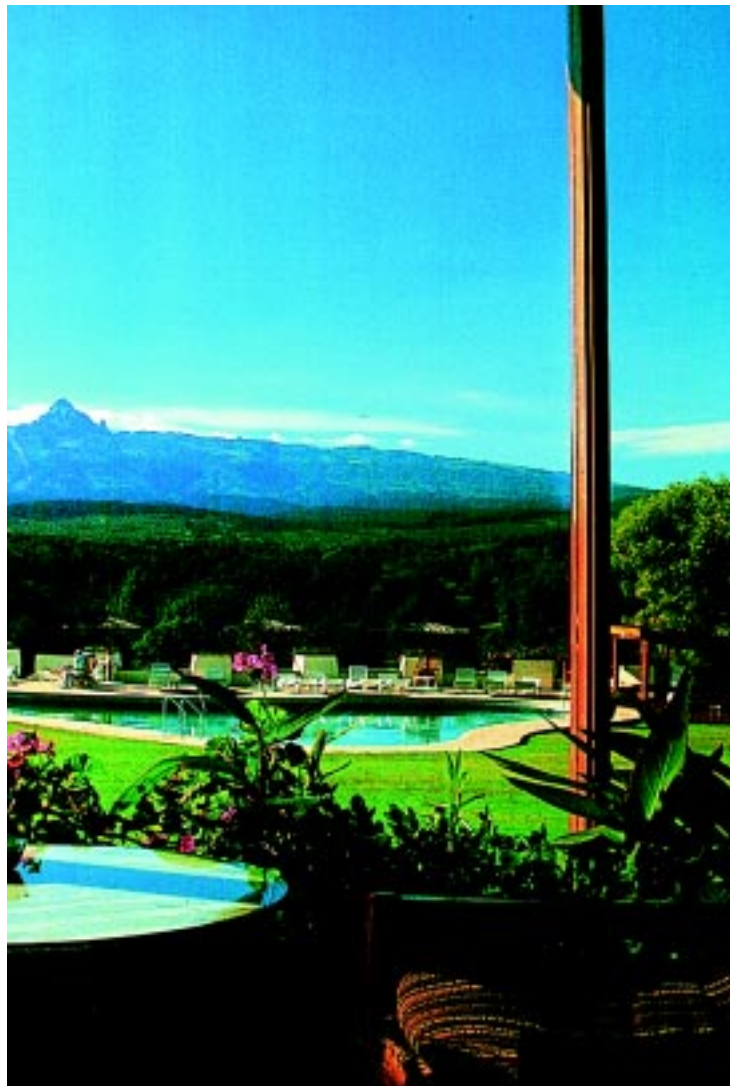
Princess Elizabeth of England was a guest here in the 1950s when she received the news she had become Queen Elizabeth II. It is a favored stop for the globetrotter, the famous, and the fashionable. Afternoon tea and dinner are served in this unique setting. (B,L,D)

Day 6 (Thursday)

TREETOPS - MOUNT KENYA

Leaving Treetops, you breakfast at the Outspan Country Club before continuing your drive northward to a private game reserve set high on the slopes of Africa's second highest mountain. The **Mount Kenya Safari Club** has a colorful history; originally a private home-stead and farm, the 100-acre property was purchased in the 1950s by the late film star William Holden and two of his friends. Since then, the club has attracted many famous guests, including Winston Churchill and John Travolta.

There are marvelous views of the plains and snow-capped mountains. Relax in manicured gardens, including a charming inner courtyard filled with glorious roses, or swim in the club's pool. Visit the club's animal orphanage, or tee off on the nine-hole golf course; there is also horseback riding, tennis, trout fishing, and a selection of lawn games.



Room with a view: Mt. Kenya Safari Club

Your dinner at the club this evening will be an elegant affair, with a wonderful selection of local and international cuisine. (B,L,D)

Day 7 (Friday)

MOUNT KENYA – MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

You fly this morning to the Masai Mara National Reserve, in the southwest corner of Kenya – one of the best areas for game viewing. Every year, up to two million wildebeest and 500,000 zebra gather in giant herds, cross these vast open grasslands migrating north from the Serengeti plains in Tanzania in search of lush grass. Following an established great circular route (beginning on the southern Serengeti plains), they instinctively cross the Sand, Talek and Mara rivers at exactly the same place each year. Their yearly journey takes about nine months and covers some 500 miles; they return to the beginning point in the late fall. Continually harried by predators, wide columns of exhausted animals converge at one site on the Mara River waiting nervously to cross. They must swim past crocodiles, hippos, and vultures before reaching the opposite bank.

Lions are found in large prides here, and it's not unusual to see them hunting. Elephants, buffaloes, zebras and hippos also exist here in large numbers. This area is a reserve, rather than a national park; and the Masai people are allowed to graze and hunt animals here.

You stay at **Governors' Camp**, with its authentic safari atmosphere; all guest facilities are under canvas, including luxurious en-suite bathrooms. Its name is derived from the colonial governors who once had sole use of the area. This evening, your delicious multi-course gourmet dinner is served in the candlelit



Masai Mara Ballooning

dining tent. Relax afterward with your companions around the campfire. (B,L,D)

Day 8 (Saturday)

MASAI MARA

Your breakfast is served on the banks of the Mara River. The Masai Mara is considered the best game-viewing site in Africa, and today you travel in specially designed four-wheel vehicles on a game drive to see an incredible variety of wildlife – elephants, cheetahs, baboons, gazelles, giraffes, jackals, hyenas, water buffaloes, ostriches, and several types of antelope. There is an extensive assortment - over 400 recorded species - of bird life as well.

Your gourmet dinner this evening is served in the relaxing atmosphere of your

BALLONING - MASAI MARA

This unforgettable highlight is included.....a \$ 450 value. There is never an additional charge for any Ashby & Sterling excursion.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Nairobi – Norfolk Hotel (2 nights), *Leading Hotels of the World '02*

Built in the early 1900s, it has kept pace with the times and offers quiet, elegant, comfort and cuisine of the highest international standards. Set in its own tranquil gardens, only a short distance from the city center, The Norfolk is Nairobi's only country hotel in the heart of town.

Aberdare National Park – Treetops Lodge (1)

Set in the heart of the dense lichen hung forest in the Park's Salient, Treetops overlooks two waterholes and magnificent snowy peaks of Mount Kenya. With all the exciting safari lodges and camps Kenya has to offer, 50-room Treetops heads the list for many a visitor.

Mt. Kenya – Mount Kenya Safari Club (1), *Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '02*

Originally owned by William Holden, the Mount Kenya Safari Club has, over the years, attracted many well known members: Sir Winston Churchill, Lyndon Johnson, Clark Gable, Lord Mountbatten. The emphasis at the Mount Kenya Safari Club is on quiet opulence to provide you with the ideal base from which to explore and discover the world's finest example of wildlife.

Masai Mara National Reserve – Governors' Camp (2), *Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '02*

Governors' Camp was the first luxury tented safari camp to be established in Africa, set on a site reserved exclusively for the Colonial Governors of Kenya. It is situated in the heart of the best game viewing area of the world. The entire camp is under canvas with all the comforts of a five-star hotel.

Nairobi – Norfolk Hotel (1)

Lake Manyara National Park – Mara Serena Safari Lodge (2), *Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '02*

A luxury lodge overlooking the Great Rift Valley and beautiful Manyara soda lake. The 67 rooms are built in a circle resembling an Africa village.

Ngorongoro Crater – Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge (2), *Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '02*

From each of the 75 guest rooms, the view into the crater is breathtaking. The 'big five' can all be found within the crater.

Serengeti – Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge (2), *Condé Nast Traveler Gold List '02*

A rustic and natural lodge in the central Serengeti, it is the only inn in the area with access to special trails for game drives.



Buffalo with yellow-billed oxpecker

luxury tented safari camp; recount the day's activities around the campfire with your companions and naturalist guides. (B,L,D)

Day 9 (Sunday)

MASAI MARA - NAIROBI

You have another extraordinary treat today – silently gliding across the plains from a hot air balloon. Rising with the sun, you have a birds-eye view of the plains and rivers, in addition to the wildlife, as you glide over the expansive countryside. These highly maneuverable balloons carry you soundlessly as low as a few hundred feet over the treetops and as high as 1,000 feet. The wildlife is clearly visible and the broad horizon is stunning. Your champagne breakfast is served upon landing in the park before you are escorted back to camp.

The tall, proud Masai were once renowned warriors; they now tend their herds and live on the fringes of the reserve. Red cloaked, wearing necklaces and earrings of bright-colored beads, each carries an iron spear as tall as he is. Smiling women with shaved heads are dressed in bright clothes and beads. They welcome you to their village. Later, you fly to Nairobi and overnight at the **Norfolk Hotel**. (B,L,D)

Day 10 (Monday)

NAIROBI – LAKE MANYARA

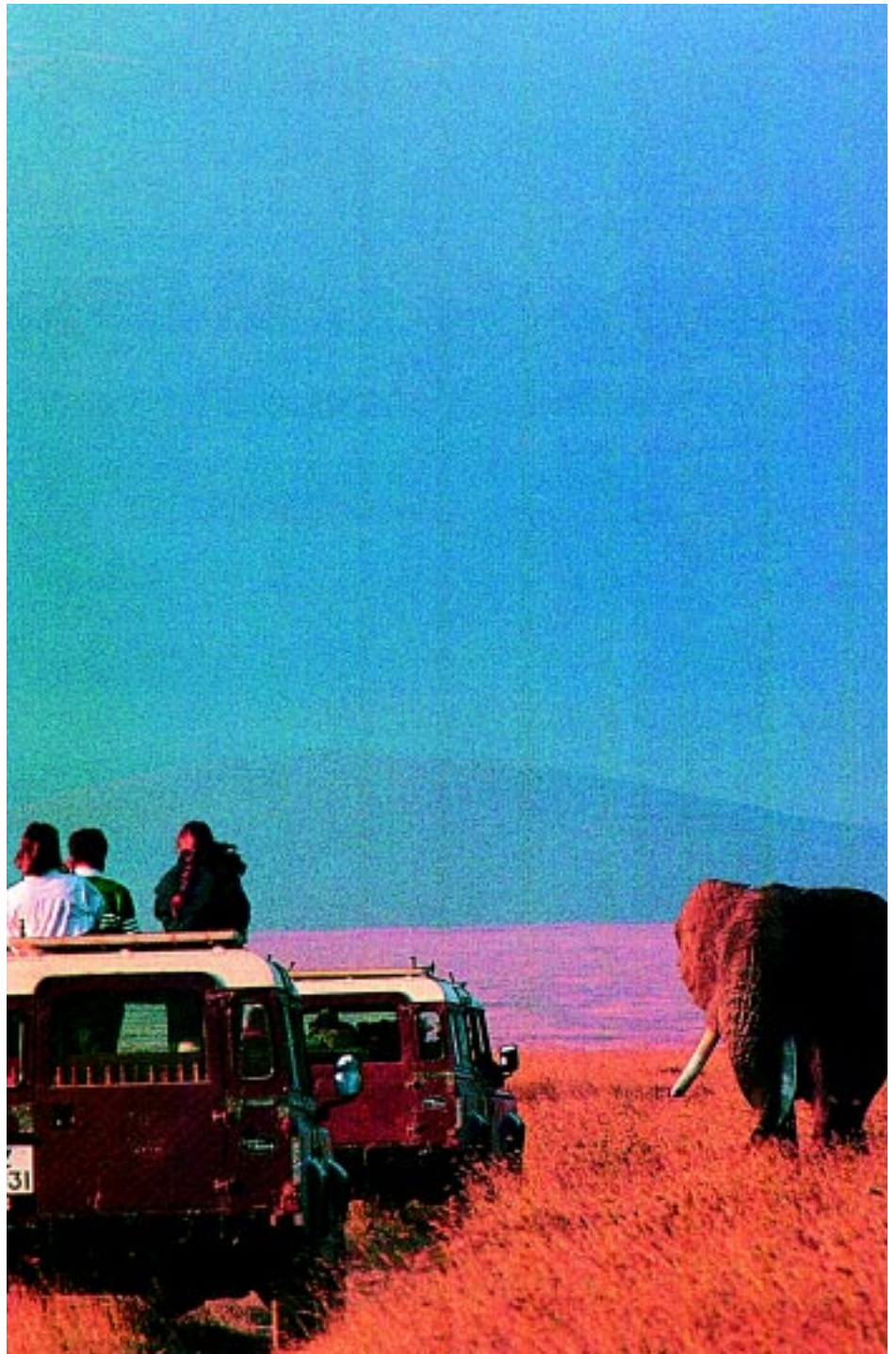
Depart by air for the Lake Manyara National Park in Tanzania. It is dramatically situated on a narrow bank of lake shore along the western wall of the Great Rift Valley. Toward evening, look for bushbuck, rhinos, aardvarks and leopards. This park is also sanctuary to hippos, giraffe, buffalo, impala, zebra and tree-climbing lions. The lake itself is a haven for a variety of bird life – pelicans, storks, cormorants and literally thousands of flamingoes.

Your evening accommodation is at the **Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge**, overlooking the Great Rift Valley and Lake. Its conical thatched roofs rise up above the lip of the Great Rift escarpment. Imitating African huts, the sleeping units feature curves and arches of white plaster with natural and painted twig trim, colorful fabrics, and woven wicker light fixtures. (B,L,D)

Day 11 (Tuesday)

LAKE MANYARA

The national park here is a small reserve - really a jungle with large, flat acacia trees and thick undergrowth. But the lake covers two-thirds of the area. On your game drive today, you likely see lion, elephant and hippo; the forest here



In the Ngorongoro crater

provides habitat for troops of baboons and blue monkeys.

Relax by the glorious pool this afternoon; it sits dramatically on a cliff-side perch with one edge that seems to vanish into the sweep of the valley below. A resident naturalist talks to you about the local flora and fauna. (B,L,D)

Day 12 (Wednesday)

LAKE MANYARA – NGORONGORO CRATER

This morning, you visit a working coffee plantation at **Gibbs Farm**. This is one of East Africa's rare authentic country inns as well. Your lunch is served here, overlooking sweeping vistas of the rich agricultural valley.

You drive on to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area - a region that has at least seven extinct volcanoes and an incredibly varied terrain. The Ngorongoro



Cheetah cubs

Crater has been called the eighth natural wonder in the world; it is 12 miles in diameter and is a haven for wildlife because of the permanent water and pasture on the crater floor. The variety and number of animals here is unequalled in East Africa.

You stay at the **Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge**, on the crater's western rim, 2,000 feet above the floor, in a rambling two-story lodge of wood and local volcanic stone. The scene from your private veranda is of lush tropical vegetation cascading down the slopes and breathtaking views of the crater floor. Dinner is served in the impressive second-floor restaurant, at the top of a spiral staircase decorated with wood and leather furnishings, overlooking the crater. (B,L,D)

Day 13 (Thursday)

NGORONGORO CRATER

This morning, you are driven by 4-wheel drive vehicle to the floor of the crater to explore an area of more than 100 square miles that can honestly be described as awesome. Over the passage of time, the floor of this extinct volcano has become a grassland with a lake in the middle. There is a high concentration of hippos, elephants, lions, jackals, wildebeests, hyenas, zebras, elands, cape buffalo and many colorful birds, as well some rare species, such as black rhinos and cheetahs.

Tonight, you dine in the Lodge's restaurant overlooking the crater, recounting the exciting events of the day with your companions. (B,L,D)

Day 14 (Friday)

NGORONGORO – SERENGETI

This morning, on your drive, you stop at the unique archaeological site at Olduvai Gorge. The gorge itself lies in the Great Rift Valley, which stretches from Central Africa to the Red Sea. It was here in 1959 that Drs. Louis and Mary Leakey discovered homo habilis (the remains of a two million-year-old man). There is a small, but very interesting, museum here with impressive jewelry and Masai artifacts.

You continue on to the Serengeti National Park; the word "serengeti" from the Masai word *siringet*, means "an extended area". Here is a vast wilderness of semi-arid grassland and woodland lying just south of the equator, 5,000 feet above sea level. Covering an area over 5,700 square miles, it is an excellent place to observe animal migrations.

Your overnight accommodations are at the **Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge**, which offers luxury features not usually found in the Serengeti. The thatched-roof bomas are accented with brightly colored fabrics, mahogany pillars, high wicker and

twig ceilings, tree-stump tables, and local pottery. The veranda and stone-ringed pool are for your relaxation. (B,L,D)

Day 15 (Saturday)

SERENGETI

Today you will see vast numbers of wild game as you drive through the park. The main residents are wildebeest, zebra gazelles, buffalo, giraffe, waterbucks, reedbucks, bushbucks, diddiks, warthogs, baboons, leopards, aardvarks and verver monkeys. In certain areas, there may be black and white colobus monkeys and groups of orange-haired patas monkeys.

The Serengeti has become well enough known now to attract funding for the construction of well-equipped research facilities. An ecological monitoring program monitors the animal numbers, vegetation, rainfall, and fires – the area has become a living laboratory.

This evening, you gather for a farewell cocktail party and dinner with your travel companions. (B,L,D)

Day 16 (Sunday)

SERENGETI - NAIROBI

This morning, you say goodbye to the Serengeti and fly north to Nairobi, where you have the afternoon at leisure for last minute shopping and relaxation. Your evening flight brings you to Europe for your connecting flight to the States. (B)

OR (JOURNEY EXTENSION) NAIROBI – ZANZIBAR

DATES

Depart-SAT (from USA)	Return-SUN
Nov 15	Nov 30
2004 Dates:	
Feb 21	Mar 07
Nov 20	Dec 05

You can take this trip at anytime following this itinerary or it can be customized to your personal preference.

COST PER PERSON

Land Portion (Double occupancy)	\$ 7,425
Single supplement	\$ 1,290
Domestic Airfare	\$ 980
International Airfare	\$ 1,740

(If you combine this trip with another one, "International Airfare" does not apply. You only pay add-on airfare to connect to other tour(s). Please call us for quote.)

All airfares are subject to availability and to change by the airlines. Cancellation penalties and surcharges may apply. Fares from other U.S. cities, as well as First and Business Class rates, are also available.

FOR RESERVATIONS, PLEASE TELEPHONE TOLL FREE: 1-888-377-8023