

# welcome to Kenya



## **Stirring Landscapes**

When you think of Africa, you're probably thinking of Kenya. It's the lone acacia silhouetted against a horizon stretching into eternity. It's the snowcapped mountain almost on the equator and within sight of harsh deserts. It's the lush, palm-fringed coastline of the Indian Ocean, it's the Great Rift Valley that once threatened to tear the continent asunder, and it's the dense forests reminiscent of the continent's heart. With so much variety, Kenya's landscapes are far more than a mere backdrop to the country's wildlife and peoples. Instead, Kenya has soul, a gravitas bequeathed to it by epic landforms and a natural environment that

stirs our deepest longings for this very special continent.

## **Proud Peoples**

Peopling that landscape, adding depth and resonance to Kenya's age-old story, are some of Africa's best-known peoples. The Maasai, the Samburu, the Turkana, Swahili, the Kikuyu: these are the peoples whose histories and daily struggles tell the story of a country and of a continent – the struggle to maintain traditions as the modern world crowds in, the daily fight for survival in some of the harshest environments on earth, the ancient tension between those who farm and those who roam. Drawing near to these cultures, even coming to

*Kenya is the Africa you always dreamed of. This is a land of vast savannahs, immense herds of wildlife and peoples with proud traditions on the soil where human beings were born.*

(left) Zebras and Mt Kilimanjaro, Amboseli National Park (p92)  
(below) Masai men, Masai Mara National Reserve (p129)



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understand them a little better through your presence among them, could just be a highlight of your visit. And it's not only about tradition: this may be a country of many tribes, but it's also a fiercely proud and modern country, one where being called Kenyan is increasingly seen as a badge of honour.

## **Abundant Wildlife**

Then, of course, there's the wildlife. This is the land of the Masai Mara, of wildebeest and zebras migrating in their millions, with the great predators of Africa – lions, leopards, cheetahs and hyenas – following in their wake. This is the land of the red elephants and black rhinos of Tsavo, a

wilderness almost brought to its knees by poaching and yet which somehow survived to thrive again. And this is a place where you'll have so many experiences that will come back to you in vivid detail long after you've returned home: elephant families wallowing in swamps in the shadow of Mt Kilimanjaro, the massed millions of pink flamingos bathing elegantly in lake shallows, the landscape suddenly fallen silent and brought to attention by the arrival of an as-yet-unseen predator. Africa is the last great wilderness where these creatures survive. And there's nowhere better than Kenya to answer Africa's call of the wild.