

20-Day Lands of the Swahili Adventure 2026

Day 1: Karibu Nairobi!

Karibu Nairobi, and welcome to the heart of Africa! From the moment you land, our friendly driver will be there to take you straight to the comfort of your hotel, where you can shake off the journey and feel the warm welcome of African hospitality. You really can't beat door-to-door service!

Tonight, you'll meet your fellow adventurers for the first time at Tamarind, one of our favourite local restaurants. Over delicious Kenyan dishes, get to know your fellow Patchies, share your excitement and clink glasses to the journey ahead. This is only the beginning!

Accommodation: Cold Springs (or similar), Nairobi, Kenya

Included: Dinner

Day 2: Nairobi

Kick off your first full day in Kenya with a meet and greet with Nairobi's 'long-necked' locals. Get some corn from your guide, reach your arm up high and listen to the giraffes chomping. Don't be surprised if they thank you with a big, sloppy kiss!

Next up is Nairobi's best-kept secret: the Nai Naim tour. Far from your average snooze-fest of a traditional sightseeing tour, this outing is a deep dive into the city's lesser-known spots, led by those who know these areas best – former street kids! They've navigated the toughest parts of the city and now, they're ready to guide you through Nairobi's nooks and crannies, sharing raw, real-life stories with you. The best part? By joining this tour, you're not just getting behind the scenes in Nairobi; you're also giving these resilient guides a shot at stable work opportunities.

Now, a word of warning here – this guided walk can be rather confronting for some – but remember – you're seeing the real face of Nairobi here.

Accommodation: Cold Springs (or similar), Nairobi, Kenya

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 3: Mombasa

Hop on the train today and kick your feet up – this ride’s about to serve up some serious eye candy, Kenyan style. As the land rolls by, you’ll be spoon-fed views so stunning you’ll want to snap photos of every passing tree and hill. No place like this back home!

Six hours later, boom! You’re in Mombasa, where it’s time to lift the lid on its streets, stories, and the kind of history that has you on the edge of your seat. There’s only one way to get to the bottom of what makes Mombasa oh-so-intriguing, and that’s, you guessed it, a no-holds-barred guided walk around the city. After all, locals know best. Zig-zagging through the old town, you’ll uncover Fort Jesus and drift through the scent-soaked spice markets.

Accommodation: Sentrim Castle Royal (or similar), Mombasa, Kenya

Included: Breakfast, Lunch Box and Dinner

Day 4: Lamu Island

Wave a cheeky goodbye to Mombasa; next stop: Lamu Island, where the only thing quicker than your flight there is the pace at which you’ll fall for this place. Kenya isn’t exactly known for its island vibes, but a few minutes into your trip here you’ll be wondering why the word hasn’t gotten out yet – and it’s bound to eventually, so you’ll feel lucky you got here before the hordes!

Lamu Old Town is the island’s hotspot, so it’s time to dig into its mystical ancient vibe. Here, you’ll notice the blend of influences and styles, and that’s all thanks to the Omani Arabs, Turkish, and Portuguese traders who passed through here back in the day.

Take a moment (or several!) to admire Lamu’s Swahili doorways as you pass them. Famous for their intricate carvings and unique styles, these doorways are an only-in-Lamu sight, so why not challenge your fellow Patchies to a find-the-most-intriguing-doorway contest? Losers buy the winners Swahili sweets. Game on!

In the evening, a special treat awaits you – a small sneak peek: you’ll be cruising into the sunset.



Day 5: Lamu Island

Kick off your morning with a hefty dose of island chill. No alarms, no rush – just you, the sea breeze, and maybe a lazy breakfast. Lamu's laid-back feeling is contagious, so let it take over.

As the day heats up, it's time to add some spice with a cooking class that'll bring you face-to-face with the very best Swahili flavours. Pilaf rice, tangy curries, fluffy couscous and chutneys so zingy they'll wake up your taste buds are all on the menu, so there's a lot to get excited about!

Worried about your chef skills? Don't be. We'd be very surprised if any of you have cooked Swahili food before, so you're all in the same boat – or kitchen – here. No pressure, just a bunch of adventurous Patchies fumbling through recipes together, laughing off the mishaps, and cheering on the successes.

Accommodation: Banana House (or similar), Lamu Island, Kenya

Included: Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6: Tsavo East National Park

Time to swap that island breeze for safari dreams as you jet back to Mombasa. Today's a travel day, but don't worry – the adventure's just shifting gears, because you're finally heading out into the wilderness. Back in Mombasa, your ride is waiting, ready to whisk you away to the Tsavo East National Park.

The road trip to your new home will take around 3.5 hours, with the views from your window getting more and more rural as the kilometres disappear behind you.

Rest and sleep well because tomorrow, a new day full of adventure is awaiting you!

Accommodation: ASHNIL Aruba Lodge (or similar), Tsavo East National Park, Kenya

Included: Breakfast, Lunch Box and Dinner



Day 7: Tsavo East National Park

Buckle up, Patchies! Today's agenda: Tsavo East National Park. You'll spend the day here and catch the golden hour on a game drive before you tuck in for the night. With its lunar-like landscapes and huge range of animals, it's easy to see why Tsavo is called the wild heart of Kenya.

Today, you'll spot dust-red elephants roaming free, cheetahs sprinting across the plains and lions lounging in the sun like the kings of the jungle they are. As your guide shares the story of the famous man-eating lions of Tsavo, you'll feel a shiver down your spine... but we promise you're in safe hands!

Accommodation: ASHNIL Lodge (or similar), Tsavo East National Park, Kenya

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8: Taita hills

Sun's up, and so are you – Tsavo East and Taita Hills aren't going to explore themselves!

With an entire day stretching out ahead of you, every turn is another opportunity to spot more incredible animals roaming their natural habitat, and there's no better way to do this than on another game drive. You'll never get tired of spotting more elephants, lions and leopards, but let's not forget the buffalo, zebra and Masai giraffes here too. Driving through the park feels like a live-action scene straight out of a nature documentary!

Sit back, relax and enjoy nature's greatest show on earth. This is a day you won't forget in a hurry.

At the end of the day, you'll arrive at your home for the night – Salt Lick Safari Lodge.

Salt Lick Lodge is definitely worth the time spent on the road today. Just wait until you spot your stilted huts; "WOW" will hardly cut it! They promise more than just a good night's sleep – they transform into front-row seats to the local watering hole, where you'll get to watch elephants and zebras hanging out below your balcony. Talk about a room with a view!



Accommodation: Salt Lick Safari Lodge (or similar), Taita Hills National Park, Kenya

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9: Amboseli National Park

Tearing yourself away from Taita Hills might be a challenge, but Amboseli is about to blow your safari socks off. Getting there involves a 5.5 hour road trip, the perfect opportunity to bond with your travel squad over your best travel stories and share your mind-boggling photos from the last few days.

What's that in the background? Pinch yourself, because yes – that's Mount Kilimanjaro! Lunch today comes with a five-star view of the tallest mountain in Africa, and that's a spectacle money just can't buy.

Amboseli, which translates to "salty dust" from Maasai, is one of the top places in Africa to view large herds of elephants. Here, they'll wander so close to you that you'll be able to hear the flap of their ears. We told you this place was worth the drive!

Accommodation: Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge (or similar), Amboseli National Park, Kenya

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 10: Hello Tanzania!

You're up at the crack of dawn today, and for good reason. Amboseli's early birds catch the elephant herds! Today kicks off with a game drive at the break of light, where it feels like the elephants are parading just for you. It's that wild scene from your travel dreams, except here, the gentle giants are real, roaming free in the cool morning air, and you're part of their world.

And with that fabulous finale, your time in Kenya has come to an end. Next stop: Tanzania! Your home for the next few nights is the eye-popping Africa Amini Lodge, where you'll find traditional earth houses built and owned by the local Maasai people. Way cooler than a boring old hotel, right?

Accommodation: Africa Amini Life Original Maasai Lodge (or similar), Ngare Nanyuki, Tanzania

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 11: Africa Amini Maasai Experience

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and a bush breakfast with views of Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru really is the perfect wake-up call. Breakfast devoured, you have a full day at Africa Amini to enjoy, trying out a bunch of traditional Maasai activities that are guaranteed to toss you into the deep end of Maasai culture. You'll swap tales by the campfire, test your aim with spear throwing (it's harder than it looks!), and shake a leg with traditional dances that'll have you working up a sweat.

There's only one logical way to recover after a jam-packed roster of activities and that's with a free afternoon to unwind by the pool, work up a sweat in the sauna with views of Kili, or get a muscle-melting massage. It's the perfect opportunity to recharge your adventure batteries, so, go on, take advantage of it!

Accommodation: Africa Amini Life Original Maasai Lodge (or similar), Ngare Nanyuki, Tanzania

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 12: Mukuru Sacred Site

After breakfast, it's time to lace up your boots, because a sacred hill – Ol Doinyo Landare – is waiting patiently for you. And the best part? You won't be doing it alone. A Maasai guide will lead the way, setting the pace and sharing stories that somehow make you forget you're walking uphill (well... almost).

The trail stretches across classic African scenery – acacia trees, endless plains, and that big, wide sky that makes everything feel a little more epic. There may be a few strategic "photo stops" along the way (which, conveniently, are perfect excuses to catch your breath while pretending you're just admiring the view).

And then comes the reward. At the top, the world opens up. On a clear day, you might spot Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance, standing there like it knows it's famous. Mount Meru makes an appearance too, and the plains roll out in every direction. It's the kind of moment that makes every step worth it – and guarantees at least one proud "we did it!" group photo.

Accommodation: Africa Amini Life Original Maasai Lodge (or similar), Ngare Nanyuki, Tanzania
Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 13: Arusha

Today's the day you hit the road to Arusha for an art shopping spree that will turn a shelf back home into your own little Tanzania. Wrap a local-made, beaded bracelet (or two) around your arm and fill your pockets with hand-crafted Maasai figurines.

After you say goodbye to the colourful Masaai market, it's time for a museum visit that'll make you dizzy. Dive into the hypnotising tinga-tinga paintings – and did someone say 'contemporary Tanzanian art'?

Accommodation: Olerai Lodge (or similar), Arusha, Tanzania

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 14: Mto Wa Mbu Village

After a brief taste of city life, it's time to reunite with the countryside, exploring Mto Wa Mbu Village where 18,000 folks from 120 different tribes call home.

From the back of your tuk tuk, you'll get the front seat view of local life as your guide (probably one of your new favourite people by now) takes you along the village's plantations. Pause your tuk-tuk cruise through the village and connect with the locals at the fruit market. They'll surely have recommendations on exotic fruits you'll try hard to find back home! A village specialty is 'mbege', a homemade brew of fermented banana that's as intriguing as it sounds. Dare to take a swig? We thought so!

Accommodation: Country Lodge (or similar), Karatu, Tanzania

Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15: Karatu

Another special day is in store for you as you step through a time portal with the Hadzabe tribe, Tanzania's original wanderers. With only about 2,000 members remaining in the



southwest Karatu District, these hunter-gatherers are the real deal when it comes to living history.

Soak it all in today as you enjoy village life (and a beautiful lake where you'll perhaps see flamingos and hippos – fingers crossed).

We know it's hard to contain your excitement for the next few days – but as night falls and you drift off to sleep, dreams of tomorrow's adventures begin to bubble up. When you wake up, you're hitting the ultimate bucket-list destination. Endless skies, sprawling savannahs and wildlife galore... yep, the wait is over: it's Serengeti time.

Accommodation: BSG Country Lodge (or similar), Karatu, Tanzania

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 16: Ngorongoro Crater

Get your camera ready today, because Africa's Big Five (buffalos, elephants, rhinos, lions and leopards) await you in... a volcanic crater.

Yep, this savannah-meets-caldera natural wonder is also every bird watcher's dream come true. Selfie with a flamingo, anyone?

As we wrap up another wildlife-packed day, you'll find yourself mulling over how, in just 16 days, women who were once strangers have turned into your tight-knit safari family. Who knew Tanzania could feel so much like home?

Accommodation: Tamu Tamu Serengeti Camp (or similar), Central Serengeti, Tanzania

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 17: Central Serengeti

You'll practically leap out of bed this morning as you race to pack up and hit the road, slicing through the misty veils of rainforests. As soon as you reach the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, keep your eyes peeled for the locals – cape buffalo, cheeky baboons, and, if luck's on your side, elephants and leopards. You'll never get tired of seeing them!

Then, it's time to explore more of what the Serengeti has to offer, getting up close and



personal with the local superstars – zebras, lions and giraffes, against that iconic golden backdrop. What a day!

Accommodation: Tamu Tamu Serengeti Camp (or similar), Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 18: Central Serengeti

Soak up every second of your time in the Serengeti, bask in the African sun and swap stories about the day's coolest sightings. By the time you leave back for Karatu, you'll be a Big Cat expert. If you're lucky, you'll spot all three – lions, cheetahs and leopards.

Tucked up in bed in Karatu tonight, you're perfectly placed for a smooth hop over to Arusha tomorrow. As you unwind for the evening, let your memories of the sights, the sounds and the silences that filled your days here lull you to sleep. Goodnight!

Accommodation: BSG Country Lodge (or similar), Karatu, Tanzania

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 19: Arusha

As you weave your way back to Arusha, we have a special lunch stop at the African Galleria planned for you. This workshop and gallery shows off the very best of local artistry, aiming to educate and inspire tourists to Tanzania. We're sure you'll come away having learnt a thing or two.

As the finish line for your journey looms closer, so does your final dinner as a group together. Try to hold back the tears! Tonight, your group of Patchies will head out to one of our favourite local restaurants for a Tanzanian feast and a night of laughter-filled stories. If the stars align, you might even be treated to a performance by a local group to end the journey on a toe-tapping high. Raise your glasses in a toast – here's to you, the unforgettable memories you've created together and the Land of Swahili!

Accommodation: Olerai Lodge (or similar), Arusha, Tanzania

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 20: Farewell Friends!

It's been a whirlwind of adventures, but all good things must come to an end eventually. As you prepare for departure, be sure to exchange those last hugs and promises to stay in touch. Your transfer will ensure you're at the airport with plenty of time to spare, and then, the only question is... where to next?

Included: Breakfast

