2020 Mount Kenya Challenge

18 – 26 September 2020

HELPING RHINOS

Innovation in Conservation

tribal tracks
EXCEPTIONAL GROUP TRAVEL
Helping Rhinos and Tribal Tracks

Tribal Tracks is delighted to be working with Helping Rhinos on an exciting challenge trek to summit Mount Kenya. The majestic peaks of Mount Kenya are amazing, with views from far below of its gleaming snow-licked summits, glacier sculptured valleys and alpine moorland riddled with clear tarns and trout-filled streams. Elephant, giraffe and eland roam its lower slopes, while the stunning vegetation - giant lobelias that appear like spiky pokers – have made it a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Our challenge is to reach Point Lenana, which, at 4985m is the second highest trekking peak in Africa. Some would say it is a more beautiful mountain than Kilimanjaro and it is away from the busy and well-trodden tourist paths. The Timau route on Mount Kenya wanders through pristine forest and alpine heathland giving an opportunity to experience the unique flora and fauna away from the busy tourist routes.

The Highlights...

- Taking the Timau route of Mount Kenya to summit Point Lenana (4985m);
- A stunning route, weaving upwards through forest and alpine heathlands;
- Camping under massive African skies;
- A fully supported trek with Kenyan mountain guides, porters and cooks and led by a mountain leader qualified UK Tribal Tracks leader;
- Celebrate World Rhino Day on 22 September 2020 while on your trek;
- Staying in a tented camp inside the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, the largest black rhino sanctuary in east Africa, and home to three of the world’s last remaining northern white rhino;
- A safari game drive in Ol Pejeta.
- A final night celebration to salute the group’s impressive achievement.
The Itinerary...

Friday 18 – Saturday 19 September – London to Nairobi

The excitement begins at the UK airport when you meet the Tribal Tracks UK leader and we start our journey to Kenya. Our Kenyan team will meet you at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and transfer you to Ol Pejeta Conservancy (approximately 4 hours). Ol Pejeta is the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa, and we will be staying in tented lodge accommodation in Ol Pejeta Wildlife Camp. This afternoon we can relax and acclimatise. In the evening before dinner we will have a briefing from the leader and support staff and then have a kit check.

Lunch and dinner. Overnight in Ol Pejeta tented camp shared rooms.

Sunday 20 September – Mt. Kenya: Wangu to West Marania Roadhead

Today we take a leisurely walk to the high altitude West Marania roadhead. We walk slowly to acclimatise to the altitude. The route is open heathland and we have the chance of seeing some unique mountain wildlife. One thing we are unlikely to see is another group as we are now off the main track. We arrive at our stunning mountain stream campsite and relax in the fabulous mountain beauty.

Length: 8km, Time: 4 hours, Ascent: 700m Accommodation: West Marania campsite (3000m)

Full board. Overnight camping in twin share tents.

Monday 21 September – West Marania Roadhead to Majors Camp

Today is a day to relax and explore a truly pristine mountain area. For those that are keen, today’s walk passes through stunning wilderness terrain with great birdlife. As usual, we will have a sumptuous meal waiting for us back at camp when we return.

Length: 13km, Time: 10 hours, Ascent: 900m Accommodation: Majors camp (3900m)

Full board. Overnight camping in twin share tents.
Tuesday 22 September – World Rhino Day - Majors Camp to Icy Mikes camp (or High Col Camp)

This is a great day that sees us finish at the base of the old volcanic plug that makes up the rocky peaks of Batian, Nelion and Pt. Lenana. On the trek up, the vegetation changes to moorland grass with small flowering plants and the amazing giant lobelias and senecios.

Length: 8km, Time: 5 hours, Ascent: 600m Accommodation: Icy Mikes Campsite (4500m)

Full board. Overnight camping in twin share tents.

Wednesday 23 September – Summit day. - Icy Mikes to Pt. Lenana (4985m) to Old Moses (4250m)

An early 3am start sees us on the Summit Circuit Path. Stunning views, tarns, glaciers, ice carved rock formations and precipitous valleys and amazing views! We will aim to be at Pt. Lenana for a sunrise celebration with spectacular views to the Aberdare Ranges and Mt. Kilimanjaro. After a celebratory cup of tea or coffee, we start our descent via the Sirimon Route to Judameir Camp.

Length: 18km, Time: 16 hours, Ascent: 485m

Full board. Overnight camping in twin share tents.

Thursday 24 September – Old Moses Campsite to Sirimon Park Gate Length

Today it is a leisurely walk through the towering forest where our vehicles will collect us and transfer you back to our camp at Ol Pejeta Conservancy for a well-deserved hot shower and a big BBQ night to celebrate! This afternoon we can meet the team from Ol Pejeta and see where the fundraising for Helping Rhinos is invested. They have a record of success in rhino population growth. From a starting population of just four Eastern black rhino in the late 1980s, today the conservancy boasts a population of 124 individuals. It is an incredible achievement, but one that comes with much heartache and at great cost, not only financial cost but in human lives too.

Ol Pejeta is playing a key role in creating new habitat for wildlife, and in particular their rhino. This includes bringing additional land into the conservancy, allowing them to continue the region’s most successful black rhino breeding programme and playing a key role in an initiative to open up multiple rhino habitats within the Laikipia region.

Length: 9km, Time: 2 hours, Descent: 600m

Full board. Overnight Ol Pejeta tented camp.
Friday 25 September – Early morning Game drive Ol Pejeta and transfer to Nairobi

We will have an early start as we set off on our game drive inside Ol Pejeta Conservancy. Ol Pejeta is the largest black rhino sanctuary in east Africa, and home to three of the world’s last remaining northern white rhino. It is the only place in Kenya to see chimpanzees, in a sanctuary established to rehabilitate animals rescued from the black market. It has some of the highest predator densities in Kenya, and still manages a very successful livestock programme. Ol Pejeta also seeks to support the people living around its borders, to ensure wildlife conservation translates to better education, healthcare and infrastructure for the next generation of wildlife guardians.

After lunch we say farewell to our Kenyan team and the staff at Ol Pejeta and head to Nairobi for our evening flight home with a summit under our belts and a greater understanding of the incredible work Helping Rhinos is achieving through continual and substantial fundraising.

Breakfast and lunch

Saturday 26 September – Arrive in London

We arrive into London in the morning with memories to last a lifetime.

The Detail…

How to sign up?

It’s easy! Complete an online booking form and pay a non-refundable registration fee of £400 to Tribal Tracks Ltd (account details are on the online booking form) by 1 December 2019.

2020 Cost, Fundraising, Inclusions and Exclusions.

Price Per Person - £2245

• £400 Non-Refundable deposit due by 1 December 2019
• £1845 Final payment due 56 days before departure

In addition, there is a minimum fundraising commitment of £500 for Helping Rhinos:

Helping Rhinos and Ol Pejeta working together achieve the following:

• Provision of a mobile veterinary unit to support the treatment of both wildlife in the region and domestic animals in the local communities
Provision of wildlife fencing at the Mutara Conservancy area, an area of land that will be incorporated into the conservancy, providing additional habitat that is essential to continue the successful black rhino breeding programme

Security patrols on Ol Pejeta to ensure the protection and health of all rhino on the conservancy

Support for the anti-poaching dog unit, vital to keep the dogs operational

Protection and care to keep the last northern white rhino on the planet in a safe and natural environment

Contributed to the IVF process being worked on by a global team of scientists and conservationists to help recover the northern white rhino sub-species

Helping Rhinos will set up a Virgin Money fundraising page for the team and this will be sent to all participants when they sign up on this challenge. The minimum fundraising amount required by each individual is £500, which you are required to raise four weeks before the trip departs for Kenya.

What does the cost include and exclude?

The Trip Includes:

Tribal Tracks Leader; Accommodation in shared rooms in Ol Pejeta Tented Camp; Camping permits and park fees; Accommodation in twin share tent; supporting In-country Mount Kenya guides, porters and chefs; Tents during trek All transfers by private minibus or bus as per itinerary; All meals from lunch on day of arrival to lunch on day of departure.

Vegetarian or other meal plan can be provided, please specify at time of booking.

The Trip Excludes:

International flights between London and Nairobi; Personal Travel Insurance, Immunisation costs; Personal equipment and clothing; Visa fees (currently required for UK passport holders); Any locally paid international airport departure taxes; Items of a personal nature; Alcoholic drinks; Single Supplement; Tipping for local guides and drivers.

Flights

Tribal Tracks can arrange international flights for the team from London/Nairobi/London. These are not included in the price provided above. The flights are published 12 months in advance and we will send details and prices of the group flight schedule to team members in September. All flights are protected by ATOL when booked with Tribal Tracks. Return economy flight prices from London to Nairobi, based on 2019 flights, are likely to be from £700 per person. If you do not choose to join the group flights you must ensure
you meet the team in Nairobi airport for onward team travel to Ol Pejeta on the morning of 19 September and the return transfer to Nairobi will be on Friday 25 September departing Ol Pejeta after lunch. Alternative transfers are not included.

**Preparation**

There is no specific fitness preparation regime you need to follow to be successful on a Mt. Kenya trek. We will be walking purposely slow to acclimatise to the altitude. Mt. Kenya is quite a unique mountain, known for its steep faces and rapidly rising altitude, so it pays to go slow. If you are a regular walker and are moderately fit we foresee no problems in the ascent and a regular routine of jogging, cycling or walking three times a week will help with your fitness.

**Equipment and standard kit that is taken on every trip.**

- Mountain Hardwear Space Station;
- 3-4 Season Mountain Tents;
- Insulated Sleeping Pads;
- Separate Kitchen Tent with gas stoves operating to UK Health and Safety specs;
- Solar lighting for Space Station and cooking tents;
- Insulated coffee and tea pot!

**What is the Mountain Hardwear space station?**

A truly majestic piece of kit. And we have two of them. They are the definitive high altitude mountain shelters used by mountaineering teams around the world tackling the highest and hardest peaks. Durable and of outstanding quality, they provide shelter on our treks. Each space station can shelter 30 people and they are designed to stand tall in the harshest mountain conditions.

**Mountain guides, porters and cooks**

Tribal Tracks carefully select experienced guides, porters and cooks for your trek who will work alongside our Tribal Tracks UK Leader. The guides have good communication and basic first aid skills. This is a team that plays a crucial role by assisting you in the trek, carrying your luggage, food and the cooking equipment and bringing the experience alive.

**Security of Booking - Payment and Financial Protection**

Tribal Tracks has 100% Financial Protection and is a member of the Travel Trust Association, member number Q6327. All client monies paid to Tribal Tracks are held in our dedicated trust account, which is supervised by an independent trustee. The trustee is a Banker, Chartered or Certified Accountant, or Solicitor appointed by the Travel Trust Association. This means that in the very unlikely event that Tribal Tracks ceases to trade, your money is safe. For more information and to verify our membership (Q6327) please visit [www.traveltrust.co.uk](http://www.traveltrust.co.uk). Flights booked for you by Tribal Tracks will be ATOL protected.

**Insurance**

It is a requirement of Tribal Tracks booking terms and conditions that each supporter must hold their own travel insurance which covers the trip and the activities they are doing. We may require evidence of this. Tribal Tracks is fully insured and carries public liability insurance up to £5 million.