

EXOTIC AFRICA

the perfect honeymoon haven

africa



Few would argue with the idea that Africa is a synonym for exotic, with its myriad cultures, timeless history and millenniums of romantic adventures.

rick shively

So, what better place then, than Africa to cement life-long memories for a couple starting their life together—perhaps a honeymoon in legendary Morocco or Egypt, maybe a rich, unforgettable game viewing experience during the great migration from the plains of the Serengeti in Tanzania to the Maasai Mara in Kenya, coupled with a pre- or post-stay along the sugar-colored beaches of Mozambique or Mauritius, or even all three.

tanzania

The diversity of the African continent hides a treasure trove of once-in-a-lifetime honeymoon experiences that weds never-to-be-forgotten travel adventures with unique luxury accommodations for that special honeymoon experience. **Micato Safaris' *The Tanzania Spectacular***

***Safari*, for example, priced from \$8,295, takes newlywed couples to intriguing and alluring places such as the Ngorongoro Crater, the alluring Serengeti Plains and, of course, the mysterious and the mighty Mt. Kilimanjaro—all visited in unrivalled luxury at astounding properties, offering a five-star honeymoon experience in harmony with nature you could only get in Africa.**

The couple's honeymoon adventure begins upon arrival in Tanzania's gateway city Arusha, where they're met and whisked away by their safari director to the five-star **Arusha Coffee Lodge**, an idyllic escape tucked away in a verdant coffee plantation designed around an original plantation house, where couples overnight in a plush *Plantation Suite*, enjoy the pool, cozy up to the fireplace or simply enjoy the view of majestic Mt. Meru from the private balcony. The next day, after a plantation

Opposite page: An Eagle Island Camp stay, part of Orient-Express, is included in Great Safaris' *The Great Wing Safari Botswana* program.

tour and an al fresco lunch, couples fly to Tarangire, for a 2-night stay in supreme luxury at **Tarangire Treetops** with views to Lake Manyara and the Rift Valley wall from the private balcony of a treehouse perched atop an age-old baobab or marula tree—again, a thoroughly African experience. The ecosystem here varies between dry and dusty, and green and swampy, and at each different landscape, couples experience that system's own cast of creatures. In addition to a game drive, there's a full slate of activities available from tracking game on foot to visiting the local Maasai people, plus a night game drive under a blanket of stars, before returning for a nightcap at the split-level lounge.

After a couple of blissful nights and a gourmet lunch, the newlyweds fly to Lake Manyara and begin the scenic ascent through the wildlife wonderland of the Ngorongoro Crater, the unofficial "eighth wonder of the natural world." It's a huge crater serving as an ancient amphitheater forming a unique haven for wildlife with over 20,000 animals thriving in near-perfect conditions. "Home" here is the serene and solitary **Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge**, perched on the eastern rim of the crater with incredible views and from where the couple will descend 2,000 ft. into the crater, passing lush rainforest and thick vegetation, before arriving at the big show—the largest concentration of animals in Africa in a variety of environments, including grassland, swamps, forests and lakes. Here, they'll view a seemingly infinite variety of animals—lions, zebras, buffaloes, rhinos, elephants, gazelles and wildebeests, just to name a few.

Two nights pass by too quickly here, but there are more adventures waiting after a flight to the legendary Serengeti, a land brimming with wildlife. The base here is **Migration Camp**, alluringly set on a magnificent rock outcropping with spacious, richly furnished tents, all superbly secluded so they blend into their natural environment above the Grumeti River. In the famed Serengeti, couples can opt for a game drive, explore the area on a guided game walk, or just lounge beside the pool back at camp, where they'll still be able to enjoy the ongoing drama of the bush before heading home.

Contact: (800) MICATO-1; micato.com

Or, book a honeymoon haven directly for your newlywed clients at **Bilila Lodge Kempinski**, offering the new *Honeymooners* package. It's a truly romantic experience amidst one of the world's most dramatic and inspiring settings, the famous Serengeti. Here, couples can spoil themselves African-style in a luxurious *Terrace Suite* on a full-board basis that includes an unforgettable daily game drive during their stay to experience the Serengeti, where they'll experience first-hand Africa's elusive "Big Five" and never forget sharing their first sightings of the incredible wildlife that roam the plains.

After experiencing the bush magic on their exhilarating day on the plains, the couple relaxes and reconnects for their daily treatments at the *Anantara Spa*, before indulging in several dining options, including Pan-African specialties and "theater cooking" in the dining room overlooking the lodge's nearby waterhole, or traditional community dining in the bush at The BOMA outdoor venue. The package also includes roundtrip airport transfers, as well as one complimentary bottle of champagne upon arrival. The offer is priced from \$960 per suite, per night and valid until Dec. 31.

Contact: kempinski.com/serengeti

kenya

Kenya Honeymoon Vacations has an affordable 16-day *Serena Lodge Road Safari* that combines exciting safari adventures with stays at five luxury Serena lodges and resorts—**Samburu Serena Lodge**, **Mount Kenya Mountain Lodge Serena**, **Amboseli Serena Lodge**, **Lake Nakuru Lodge** and **Mara Serena Lodge** in Maasai Mara—all in the richest game viewing regions of Kenya, with an exciting overnight train journey from Nairobi to Mombasa and a 4-day beach stay at **Mombasa Serena Beach Hotel**—now that's romance.

Couples start off from Nairobi in the morning and drive through rich farmlands on the shoulders of Mt. Kenya to the rugged semi-desert of Samburu for a 2-night stay at the Samburu Serena Lodge where they'll find game rarely found elsewhere, including the liver red reticulated giraffe, Grevy's zebra, beisa oryx, long neck gerenuk, blue flanked Somali ostrich, vulturine guinea fowl and also elephants, leopards in the trees, African buffaloes, cheetahs and lions lazing in the grass. Here, too, there's time for visits to Samburu villages, an experience they'll never forget. Then it's on to Mt. Kenya for an overnight stay at Mount Kenya Mountain Lodge Serena that includes floodlit game viewing before heading south to Lake Nakuru, often referred to as the pink lake due to its great masses of pink flamingos, for still another overnight stay. On an afternoon game drive, newlyweds will see water buck, impala, buffalo, certainly rhinos, because it's currently a rhino sanctuary, and if they're lucky, the elusive leopard.

The safari part of the program wraps up at two of Kenya's most famous game parks—the Maasai Mara National Reserve, famous for its great herds of wild game—and Amboseli, located at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro. From the Mara Serena Lodge, honeymooners can enjoy afternoon and morning game drives, as well as visits to the nearby Maasai villages. En-route to the Amboseli Serena Lodge, they stop for lunch in Nairobi and then spend the next two nights at the foot of the snow-capped Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Finally, it's back to Nairobi for more game viewing along the way, where they'll board their overnight train for Mombasa. In Mombasa, they're picked up and delivered to the Mombasa Serena Beach Hotel for four relaxing days on the resort's white sand beaches. The program is priced from \$4,896 pp dbl with full board and in-country transport.

Contact: kenyahoneymoonvacations.com

egypt & kenya

African Travel, Inc. has a doubleheader offering combining two of the most exotic destinations in Africa, making it probably one of the most unforgettable honeymoon experiences a newlywed couple could ever have—the 18-day *Highlights of Egypt & Kenya*.

On this incredible itinerary, couples spend seven days in Egypt that includes a 4-night Nile cruise aboard **Uniworld's** beautiful and luxurious *River Tosca* from Luxor to Aswan. There's also guided touring of Kom Ombo, the Valley of the Kings, the Valley of the Queens and Karnak. In Cairo, couples will have a full day of private sightseeing at Memphis, Sakkara and Giza, as well as visits to the Citadel, the Mosque of Mohammed Ali and the incomparable treasures of the Cairo Museum. Accommodations in Cairo include the **Marriott Cairo Hotel** and the **Fairmont Heliopolis Cairo**. »