



FIE
MUSEUM
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Kenya
A Carl Akeley Tribute

with Bruce Patterson, Ph.D., MacArthur Curator Emeritus of Mammals

May 4 – 16, 2026



Dear Field Museum Friend,

Few individuals have left a more lasting mark on our institution than **Carl Akeley**, “the Father of Modern Taxidermy,” who served as our Chief Taxidermist from 1896 to 1909. His Kenya expeditions for the Field Museum produced masterpieces that still amaze visitors today—most notably our famous *Fighting African Elephants*, displayed at the Field since 1909. Akeley’s three-dimensional portraits captured animals’ physical presence and behavior with unprecedented accuracy.

From **May 4 to 16, 2026**, please join me on this special commemorative journey in Akeley’s footsteps across Kenya’s golden savannas and mist-draped mountains. As co-director of the “Bats of Kenya” project and leader of the “Lions of Tsavo” project, I’ve spent decades exploring many of the same landscapes and species that fired Akeley’s imagination. I’m excited to share this adventure with you.

This journey traces Akeley’s 1905 expedition through some of Africa’s most spectacular wildlife sanctuaries. On thrilling game drives and guided visits to animal reserves, we’ll encounter Kenya’s diverse megafauna, from African elephants, rhinos, giraffes, cheetahs, and zebras to a remarkable birdlife. We’ll spend time in **Tsavo West** and **Tsavo East National Parks**, where two infamous lions once hunted railway workers. These fearsome big cats now reside in our museum, still sparking scientific debate about predator behavior. At **Mount Kenya**, we’ll discover the exact place where Akeley collected the massive bull elephants for his most renowned creation.

Throughout our adventure, you’ll gain exclusive access to Kenya’s leading research facilities and conservation projects. Our carefully selected accommodations range from the historic Mount Kenya Safari Club to intimate safari lodges where animals drink at nearby water holes.

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Bruce D. Patterson, Ph.D., is Curator Emeritus of Mammals at the Field Museum of Natural History, where he served from 1981 to 2022. He teaches at the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago and served as

president of the Society for the Study of Mammalian Evolution and the American Society of Mammalogists. His research explores how mammals diversify, focusing on their taxonomy and biogeographic relationships. Dr. Patterson has conducted extensive fieldwork in South America and East Africa, studying bats and their parasites to understand co-evolution. In Kenya, he co-directs the “Bats of Kenya” project and led the Earthwatch Institute’s “Lions of Tsavo” project, which brought 542 volunteers from 40 countries to study lions in their natural habitat.

To join this exceptional journey, please

contact **Sean McCarthy** at our tour operator Arrangements Abroad by calling 212-514-8921 or emailing smccarthy@arrangementsabroad.com. Space is limited to 16 participants to ensure expert-led wildlife encounters and meaningful interactions with researchers, local artisans, and villagers. I look forward to sharing Kenya’s majestic landscapes and wildlife with you while celebrating the achievements of a true Field Museum legend.

Sincerely,

Bruce Patterson, Ph.D.

MacArthur Curator Emeritus of Mammals
Field Museum of Natural History

Activity Level:
Active



Pace Level:
Vivace



Visit Arrangements Abroad’s website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

FOLLOW MacArthur Curator Emeritus **Bruce Patterson** through Kenya's most spectacular wildlife sanctuaries on this Field Museum expedition celebrating the legacy of **Carl Akeley**.

WALK in Carl Akeley's footsteps at **Mount Kenya**, where he and his wife Delia collected the famous *Fighting African Elephants*—exhibited at the Field Museum since 1909.

EXPLORE **Tsavo East National Park** with Dr. Patterson, investigating the hunting grounds of the infamous man-eating lions now displayed in the Field Museum's collections.

EXPERIENCE the world's most successful elephant orphan-rescue program during private access to the **Sheldrick Wildlife Trust**, and meet the young elephants whose survival depends on a milk formula perfected here.

GAIN private access to the **Nairobi National Museum** with expert curators who will share rare specimens connected to early Field Museum expeditions.

COME face to face with the last two northern white rhinos on Earth at the **OI Pejeta Conservancy**. In a private meeting, learn about the global effort to save a subspecies through a pioneering IVF program.

OBSERVE Africa's magnificent wildlife on expert-guided game drives through the **Maasai Mara Nature Reserve**.

VISIT a **Maasai village** for an authentic introduction to one of Kenya's most culturally distinctive communities and their relationships with the region's wildlife.

TOUR the **Kazuri Beads Factory**, a World Fair Trade Organization-certified enterprise, to see how local women, mostly single mothers, create handmade ceramic jewelry, turning artistry into economic independence.

STAY in carefully chosen accommodations including the colonial-era **Mount Kenya Safari Club**, luxurious game lodges overlooking wildlife-rich water holes, and tented camps that place you in the heart of Kenya's awe-inspiring wilderness.



Kenya

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We will also visit the **Utamaduni Craft Centre** and the **Kazuri Beads Factory**, a World Fair Trade Organization-certified factory that employs more than 300 women who create handmade ceramic beads. Dinner this evening is at **Tatu** restaurant, one of Nairobi's most acclaimed eateries, with special guests in attendance. B,L,D

THURSDAY, MAY 7: NAIROBI / TSAVO WEST NATIONAL PARK

We depart Nairobi early this morning for a scenic train journey to **Tsavo West National Park**, reserving an executive car exclusively for our group. Our railway crosses the site where the "Man-Eaters of Tsavo" were killed.

Tsavo West covers nearly 3,500 square miles, its landscape defined by volcanic cones, rocky outcrops, and ancient lava flows. Upon arrival, an en-route game drive brings us to the **Kilaguni Serena Safari Lodge** for a three-night stay. After lunch, there will be an optional late-afternoon game drive. Later, enjoy an included dinner overlooking a large watering hole frequented by wildlife. B,L,D

MONDAY, MAY 4: DEPARTURE

Board an overnight flight bound for Nairobi, Kenya.

TUESDAY, MAY 5: NAIROBI, KENYA

Jambo! Welcome to **Nairobi**. Upon arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, you will be met and transferred to the **Fairmont Norfolk** hotel. This historic property, which has hosted guests such as Theodore Roosevelt, is an oasis of calm in Kenya's modern capital. This evening, meet fellow travelers over an informal cocktail.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6: NAIROBI

After breakfast, we begin our exploration with a private tour of the **Nairobi National Museum** in the company of the institution's Director General (*pending final confirmation*).

Experience exhibits on Kenyan tribal heritage, regional art, and ancient fossils, including many of the original artifacts that first document mankind's evolution.

Reptile lovers may take an optional visit to the adjacent **Snake Park**, where you will find a wide array of cobras, puff adders, mambas, and the large African rock python.

We then explore the **Karen Blixen Museum**, the *Out of Africa* author's former farmhouse, which she called *Mbogani* ("a house in the woods"). After lunch, enjoy a private visit to the world's most successful program for rescuing and rewilding orphaned elephants and rhinos, the **Sheldrick Wildlife Trust**.

Tsavo "red" elephant, Tsavo West National Park





Giraffe, Tsavo East National Park

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 8 & 9: TSAVO WEST NATIONAL PARK / TSAVO EAST NATIONAL PARK

The next **two days** are dedicated to exploring the vast Tsavo ecosystem, one of Africa's most ecologically rich landscapes.

Activities include:

- A full-day excursion to **Tsavo East National Park**, often called the "Theater of the Wild" for its vast, open plains that are home to large herds of distinctive "red elephants," which get their color from the region's iron-rich soil.
- A visit to **Lugard Falls**, a series of rapids where the Galana River is funneled through a gorge of multi-colored, water-sculpted rock.
- A tour featuring **Yatta Plateau**, the world's longest lava flow, stretching over 180 miles, and **Mudanda Rock**, a mile-long granite inselberg that serves as a critical water source for wildlife in the dry season.
- A very special "bush breakfast" at **Lion's Rock**, a favorite hangout of the Tsavo Lions, perhaps among the Field Museum's most famous residents.
- An optional visit to the **lava tube caves in the nearby Chyulu Hills**, which harbor significant bat populations.
- A visit to **Mzima Springs**, an oasis where over 250 million liters of crystal-clear water gush out daily to form pools that are home to hippos and crocodiles.
- Visits to key geological and historical sites within Tsavo West, including the **Shetani Lava Flows** and the nearby battlefields of the **World War I East African Campaign**. B,L,D

SUNDAY, MAY 10: TSAVO WEST NATIONAL PARK / NAIROBI / NAIVASHA / LAKE ELEMENTAITA / LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

After a short internal flight via Nairobi to Naivasha, our journey takes us into the **Great Rift Valley**, a massive geological wonder formed by the separation of three tectonic plates.

Our first stop is the **Kariandusi Museum**, one of the first Lower Paleolithic sites discovered in East Africa, where early humans produced thousands of stone hand-axes up to a million years ago. Navigate several excavation pits displaying stone tools, many made from obsidian.

We then embark on a game drive to **Lake Nakuru National Park**, part of the Kenya Lakes System, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park is a crucial sanctuary for both black and white rhinos and is renowned for its dazzling variety of birdlife, with over 400 species recorded. We check into the **Sarova Lion Hill Game Lodge** for an included dinner whenever you choose during the evening meal hours. B,L,D

MONDAY, MAY 11: LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK / NANYUKI

We travel to the highlands of **Mount Kenya**, the region where Carl Akeley found the specimens for the Field Museum's famous **Fighting African Elephants** display in 1905. We arrive for lunch and check-in at the **Mount Kenya Safari Club**, established in the 1950s and set on 100 acres of manicured gardens directly on the equator.

In the afternoon, a guided wildlife walk offers encounters with giant forest hogs, Africa's largest wild pigs, and a visit to the adjacent **Mount Kenya Wildlife Rescue Center**. This evening, we gather for dinner with expansive views of Mount Kenya. B,L,D



Mzima Springs



Fatu and Najin, Ol Pejeta Conservancy

TUESDAY, MAY 12: NANYUKI

Following an early breakfast, we depart for a half-day game drive at the 90,000-acre **Ol Pejeta Conservancy**. This pioneering, non-profit wilderness is the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa and is also the only place in Kenya to see chimpanzees, at the **Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary**.

A highlight of our visit is a scheduled meeting with **Fatu** and **Najin**, the last two northern white rhinos on Earth. Their survival, and that of their subspecies, now rests entirely on a groundbreaking IVF program using cryogenically preserved sperm. After further game-drive activities, we return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure before dinner. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13: NANYUKI / MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Pending local conditions, enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience with the rarest of uninvited guests during breakfast. Afterwards, we transfer from the hotel's own landing strip for a private chartered flight to the **Maasai Mara National Reserve**.

A landscape of open grasslands dotted with acacia trees, the Mara is part of a single, vast, unfenced ecosystem shared with Tanzania's Serengeti. After check-in and lunch at the **Olonana Lodge**, an A&K Sanctuary on a private stretch of the Mara River, we set out on an afternoon game drive.

Observe one of the most special places on earth at a time of year when there are the fewest tourists, with the animals virtually all to ourselves. With our experienced guides in 4x4 safari vehicles, we will track the Big Five, along with giraffes, hyenas, zebras, hippos, crocodiles, and other diverse wildlife. B,L,D

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, MAY 14 & 15: MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Renowned for its rich wildlife, **Maasai Mara National Reserve** stretches across open grasslands, rolling hills, and acacia-dotted plains. Over the next two days, explore its untamed wilderness and vibrant culture, with all meals included.

Activities include:

- Experiencing the rich heritage of the Maasai people, one of East Africa's most storied communities, beginning with a **spirited welcome dance**.
- Game drives in the **early morning and late afternoon**, prime opportunities to see predators on the hunt during the cooler hours.
- **Night drives**, revealing elusive nocturnal species rarely seen in daylight, from prowling leopards to bush babies leaping between branches.
- Stepping off the beaten path on a **guided walking safari**, where you can trace animal tracks, inhale the scent of wild herbs, and feel the rough bark of acacia trees.
- **Spotting often-overlooked fauna and flora**, from iridescent insects to delicate wildflowers, and uncovering the hidden layers of the Mara's ecosystem.
- Exploring a **haven for bird enthusiasts**, where both resident and migratory species flourish in diverse habitats with beautiful views at the edge of the Rift Valley.
- Taking an optional game drive and bush lunch on the border of the Maasai Mara and Tanzania's Serengeti.
- Photographing the incredible beauty of nature, framing portraits of elephants, giraffes, lions, and cheetahs in their natural environment. B,L,D



Maasai dancers



African crowned crane, Maasai Mara National Reserve

SATURDAY, MAY 16: MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE / NAIROBI / RETURN

Check out and transfer to the airstrip for a direct flight to Nairobi's Wilson Airport. After meeting a VIP airport representative, enjoy lunch in Nairobi. Then transfer to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for your flight home, arriving in the U.S. on May 17. B,L

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Field Museum and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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PROGRAM RATE

\$16,999 per person, double rate

\$17,999 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- 11 nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- Internal, one-way flights (Tsavo West National Park-Nairobi-Naivasha / Nanyuki-Maasai Mara National Reserve / Maasai Mara National Reserve-Nairobi)
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for participants on arrival and departure days
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for participants on arrival and departure days; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Dining, Kilaguni Serena Safari Lodge, Tsavo West National Park

ACCOMMODATIONS

FAIRMONT THE NORFOLK, NAIROBI

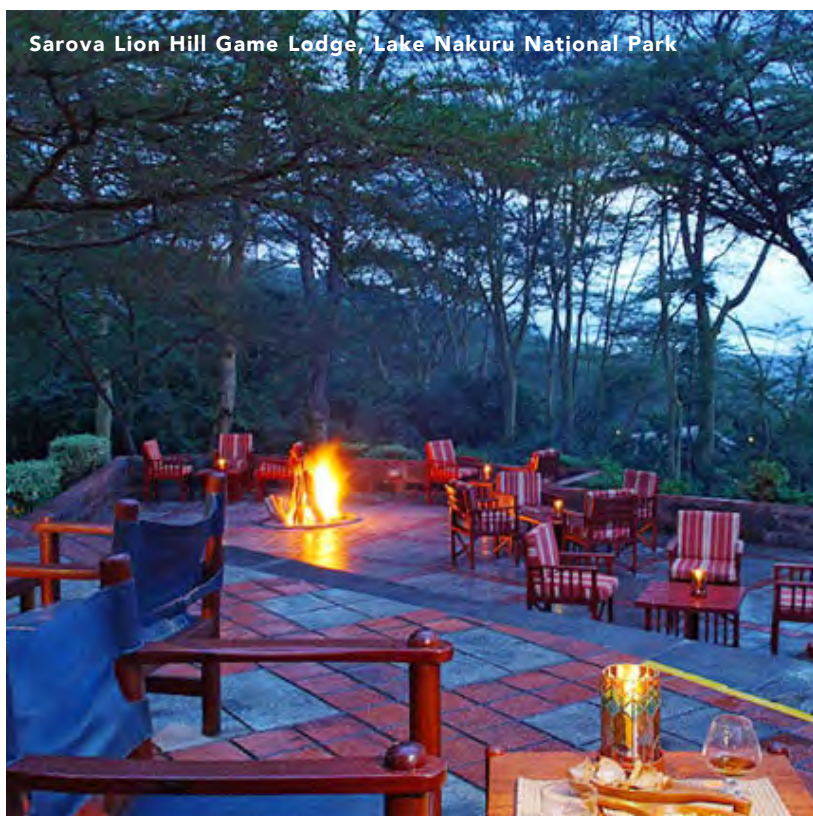
A historic sanctuary in the city since 1904, this landmark combines colonial-era architecture with contemporary comfort, offering a quiet retreat near Nairobi's cultural and political centers.

KILAGUNI SERENA SAFARI LODGE, TSAVO WEST NATIONAL PARK

Perched above the plains, the lodge looks out toward Mount Kilimanjaro and a popular wildlife watering hole. Elephants, lions, and zebras pass below as you dine or relax on the veranda

SAROVA LION HILL GAME LODGE, LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

Overlooking Lake Nakuru, the lodge sits inside a rhino sanctuary teeming with wildlife. Game drives reveal rhinos, lions, giraffes, and flamingos against a backdrop of woodlands and open plains.



Sarovia Lion Hill Game Lodge, Lake Nakuru National Park



MOUNT KENYA SAFARI CLUB, NANYUKI

This garden estate near the Equator offers fireplaces, outdoor activities, and direct views of Mount Kenya. Between rounds of golf or a horse ride, unwind in polished rooms or shaded courtyards.

OLONANA LODGE, AN A&K SANCTUARY, MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Glass-fronted suites line a quiet stretch of the Mara River, where hippos stir and birds wheel overhead. Drives into the Mara Triangle bring you close to cheetahs, elephants, and seasonal migrations.



Olonana Lodge, an A&K Sanctuary, Maasai Mara National Reserve



THE FIELD MUSEUM

KENYA

MAY 4 – 16, 2026

RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call **Sean McCarthy** at Arrangements Abroad at 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944; email: smccarthy@arrangementsabroad.com; fax: 212-344- 7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)

☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date
