

## **MOYALE GEOGRAPHIC AND CULTURAL EXPEDITION**

### **ITINERARY (23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021)**

#### **DAY 1, (23<sup>rd</sup> JULY), NAIROBI – MARSABIT (HIGHWAY DRIVING)**

Leave Nairobi at 6 AM and drive approximately 560km north of Nairobi via the A2, passing Nanyuki and Isiolo towns. This route gets scenic past Nanyuki as we pass through the rolling wheat farms of Timau and catch glimpses of the snowy peaks of Mount Kenya. Isiolo town is the half way point and shall be our lunch stop-over. Leave Isiolo at 1PM, moving north through the Samburu wildlife corridors, the magnificent Mount Ololokwe (Sabache) and onto the Kaisut desert of Marsabit, passing via the craggy peaks of Losai and Moile mountains. By late afternoon, we shall be rolling into Marsabit town for the night. If time permits, we shall drive 3kms out of town to Gof Redo for a breath-taking view of the steep ground crater and a sundowner. Spend the night at Nomads Hotel.

#### **DAY 2 & 3, (24<sup>TH</sup> & 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY), MARSABIT – URAN (OFF ROAD DRIVING)**

Leave Marsabit at 7 AM, drive north via the A2, stopping at Gof Choba to admire the large ground craters and thereafter proceeding to Turbi area. Here we shall detour left and proceed to Uran where we shall set camp. There are challenging hills and inselbergs to be scaled by the adventurous. Hikes include: the Great Mountain of Uran and the Great Rock of Yashare where centuries old rock art is to be found. A short 3kms drive to Kilie Qathatha and Garb where unique wells are found. Nearby is the underground wells of Latak. We shall camp at the base on Uran Mountain for 2 nights.

#### **DAY 4, (26<sup>TH</sup> JULY), URAN – MOYALE (OFF ROAD DRIVING)**

Leave Uran for Sololo early morning, passing through the scenic Sololo escarpment. We shall proceed to Ambalo where there is another site of rock art. The area also has unique geographical rock structures that are naturally shaped to form tortoises. A short exploration of this area is sufficient to appreciate the phenomenon. Later on, we shall drive to Badan Arero enroute to Moyale town. At Moyale, the border town between Kenya and Ethiopia, we shall cross into Ethiopia and spend at a comfortable hotel, experience the fine dishes of Abyssinia and spend the night there (dependent on ground situation).

#### **DAY 5, (27<sup>TH</sup> JULY) MOYALE – GODOMA – MOYALE (OFF ROAD DRIVING)**

Leave Moyale (Ethiopia) and cross over into Kenya, driving southeast to Dabel. Dabel has some gold mines where the people excavate the ground in pursuit of gold deposits. Nearby

is the Sakuye (one of the local tribes) Cultural Shrine. Further on at Korondele is the colonial Italian Tower that was used by the Italians in their unsuccessful attempts to invade and colonize Ethiopia from the Kenyan border. We continue proceeding east to Godoma where semi-precious gemstones are mined. Our most easterly point shall be Bute where other rock art formations are found as well as natural boulders that are naturally shaped to resemble a lion.

From Bute, it takes 45 minutes to drive back to Moyale via a newly laid tarmac road. Spend the night at Moyale town.

#### **DAY 6, (28<sup>TH</sup> JULY), MOYALE – MARSABIT (HIGHWAY DRIVING, OFFROAD IN THE PARK)**

Leave early morning passing by Holale – the natural water supply point for Moyale town.

We shall then drive via the Ordha Escarpment and Butie Valley. There is a vantage view point at Somare offering breath-taking views of the plains below and of Moyale area. Later on we shall drive through the vast expanse of the Dida Galgallu desert (the land of thirst), arriving Marsabit town by late afternoon.

This is the perfect time to go into Marsabit National Park which is the home of elephants, lions, Grevy zebra, kudu, hyena, bushbuck, buffalo and so many birds. It also contains the stunning Lake Paradise, Bakuli dam, Gof Bongole and thick montane forests.

There is an option to camp at Lake Paradise (highly recommended) or return to town and spend at a hotel.

#### **DAY 7, (29<sup>TH</sup> JULY), MARSABIT – NAIROBI (HIGHWAY DRIVING)**

Leave Marsabit early morning driving back to Nairobi via the A2. If you'd prefer to use a different route, then it's recommended to branch left at the Meru junction, and drive to Meru – Chogoria - Embu – Mwea and back to Makuyu. Thus, you'll have completed the Mount Kenya ring road.

#### **ESTIMATED COSTINGS (Read carefully)**

**Food and accommodation costs are based on your preferences.**

1. Registration fee **Kshs.1,000** per adult, Kshs 500 per child. **Gains you 1 year membership** to The Explorer's Club of Kenya. Each new member is gifted a goodies' starter pack. Existing Club members do not need to pay this fee.
2. Food (if eating at restaurants per person) budget for Ksh.250/- per meal x 3 meals a day x 7 days = **Ksh5,250/-**

3. Accommodation.

- Night 1. Stay at Nomads Hotel, Marsabit. Bed & Breakfast (Ksh. 1,800 standard rooms, Ksh. 2,000 executive room). Maximum of 2 can spend in a room. The second person adds Kshs. 500 for toiletries and breakfast.
- Night 2 & 3 .Camp for 2 nights at the base of Uran mountain (no campsite fees).
- Night 4 & 5. Stay at a hotel in Moyale (Kenyan side). Bed and breakfast (budget for Ksh.2,000 per night)
- Night 6. Camp at Lake Paradise or Ahmed Gate (Kshs. 250 per person) **OR** Stay at Nomads Hotel, Marsabit. Bed & Breakfast (Ksh. 1,800 standard rooms, Ksh. 2,000 executive room). Maximum of 2 can spend in a room. The second person adds Kshs. 500 for toiletries and breakfast.

4. Marsabit Park entry per adult = Ksh.250 and vehicle = Ksh.300, children = Ksh.100

5. From Uran through Bute and back to Moyale, we are hiring the services of a local Borana/Waata tribesman. His charges are Kshs.4,000 per day x 4 days = Ksh.16,000/-

**This cost is to be divided by the total number of participants.** The more we are, the cheaper it gets. Example. If 10 people join the trip, each person pays Ksh.1,600/-, if 20 people join the trip, each person pays Ksh.800/-.

6. Fuel. The estimated driving distance is 2,200 Kms from Nairobi thru all the places, and back to Nairobi. **Calculate the estimated fuel costs based on your fuel consumption and the fuel costs per litre.** Also note that fuel is cheaper in Nairobi than Moyale. A rule of thumb, calculate the fuel costs based on the most expensive place where we shall fuel. That way, you have extra fuel money if we were to detour somewhere.
7. Budget to carry minimum 3 litres of water per person per day especially for the 3 days in Uran, where water will not be available. Water can be purchased in Isiolo, Marsabit and Moyale.

Notes:

- We **encourage** you to carry some food, clothes or other essential items (school stationary, water purifiers, mosquito nets etc) to **donate** in Uran and Godoma.
- This is a **Land Rover** expedition, we are not in a hurry to get there. Convoy rules apply. Let's enjoy the prowess of our vehicles in getting us to remote places.
- The County Government of Marsabit, Tourism and Culture department has expressed interest in joining our convoy. They will come in their own vehicle. This is a networking opportunity.

**CONTACT ALBERTO ON WHATSAPP VIA 0714 442 917 TO REGISTER.**

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