

# AFRICAN Art Tours

In partnership with

*A&K*

Abercrombie & Kent Kenya Ltd.

Presents

## “In the Footsteps of Simon Combes” June 15-25, 2010



This exceptional wildlife and art safari travels to the heart of Kenya's greatest and most incredible game viewing areas. You will be the personal guests of African Art Tours, A&K and a member of the Combes family! We'll introduce you to the game, characters, and tribes who make the region so colorful and dynamic. Along the way, enjoy the magnificent food, and wonderful company of this unique adventure.

### THE STORY BEHIND 'IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SIMON COMBES' SAFARI:

*'In The Footsteps of Simon Combes' is a unique opportunity to not only experience directly what inspired him to paint, but also to honor his dream to engrain that inspiration in others. Simon lived and breathed the environment that he described on canvas, not least in his own 'back yard', The Soysambu Conservancy which is included in your safari. As a teenager, while his father worked for Delamere Estates, he explored every grassy plain, thicket and rocky outcrop of this 48,000 acre wilderness. His explorations gave him an innate sense of the changing mood and light of the African landscape and how certain animals related to specific environments - all essential information he would need when taking up the brush and palette as a profession.*

*Later, while serving in the Kenyan Army and as a game warden, he was able to extend his knowledge to all four corners of Kenya and further afield in East Africa. Many of his greatest works were inspired by specific locations that will be visited on this safari. The Aberdares were a great love of his, and he was active with Rhino Ark to raise funds for the protection of this important park. "Forest Waterhole", one of his last epic canvases, depicts one of his favorite spots and includes many of the unusual species to be found in this area. It is not far from the place where his ashes were scattered along with his brother, father and mother - a small stream which joins many others and eventually finds its way to the Indian Ocean.*

*He was as familiar with neighboring Nakuru National Park as Soysambu. As a young man, Simon would have known the park as the farm next door, then years after it was gazetted he would become Director of ground operations for Rhino Rescue, who raised the funds to protect Nakuru and began a tremendously successful program to introduce Black and White Rhino. Nakuru is famous for its soda lake, which together with Soysambu's Lake Elmenteita, is essential habitat for many migratory birds including Lesser and Greater Flamingos and Great White Pelicans. While most of his work depicted 'mega fauna', he was also fascinated by birds and was able to name nearly all of the 1200+ different species found in Kenya. Nakuru is also well known for its relatively visible populations of Leopard. Simon's last Leopard painting, "The Biggest Leopard", was seen one morning while on his way to visit the rangers.*

*Your safari's grand finale will be a visit to the Maasai Mara - the great 'Eden' of East Africa. Not surprisingly, Simon spent a great deal of time here, and some of his greatest paintings were depictions of the Mara and Serengeti. "The Wildebeest Migration" and "The Crossing" are two of his most epic paintings, and one of his best known masterpieces, "Tension at Dawn" is a scene that you too will hopefully have the experience of finding on your own adventure to Kenya.*

### **June 15 - DAY 1**

### **ARRIVE NAIROBI, KENYA**



Arrive at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. After clearing customs and immigration, you are met at Wilson Airport and transferred to the House of Waine.

*The House of Waine is an 11 bedroom property located in a beautiful setting in the Karen suburb of Nairobi. The property blends the elegance of gracious living with the spirit of modern Africa and provides a personalized and friendly service. Facilities include a heated swimming*

*pool are two meeting rooms. Meals are served in various locations on the property, which gives each meal time a slightly different experience.*

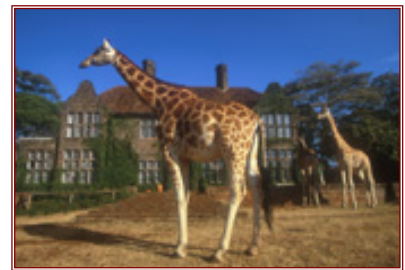
The remainder of the day is at your leisure and meals are on your own.

### **June 16 - DAY 2**

### **NAIROBI SIGHTSEEING**

After breakfast you will drive to Giraffe Center also located in Karen.

*Giraffe Centre is the headquarters for AFEW, the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife. Made famous by 'Daisy Rothschild', a giraffe calf rescued from Soi, on the border of Western Kenya, Giraffe Manor was established in 1983 as a sanctuary for the then endangered Rothschild giraffe. The breeding program has been a great success and visitors can now watch these gentle giants at eye level from a raised platform. There is also the opportunity to learn more about giraffe at the interpretation centre and hand-feed them whilst watching the semi-tame family of warthogs snuffle around their hooves in search of tidbits.*



Enjoy lunch at Karen Blixen Coffee Garden which is next door to the house of Karen Blixen. The book and film, 'Out of Africa' made Kenya famous and you will find yourself in the heart of her home area. Proceed to Daphne Sheldrick's Orphanage for a private visit with the orphan elephants.

*For over 25 years, Kenya-born Daphne Sheldrick lived and worked alongside her late husband, David, the famous founder of Kenya's giant Tsavo National Park. During that time she raised and rehabilitated back into the wild community orphans of misfortune from many different wild species, including Elephants and Black Rhinos. She is a recognized International authority on the rearing of wild creatures and is the first person to have perfected the milk formula and necessary husbandry for both infant milk dependent Elephants and Rhinos. For her work in this field Daphne Sheldrick was decorated by the Queen in 1989 with an M.B.E., elevated to*



**June 19 - DAY 5**

**ABERDARES - SOYSAMBU WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY**

Breakfast and then drive to Soysambu Wildlife Conservancy in The Great Rift Valley where you arrive in time for lunch at your private mobile camp. After a siesta you will enjoy an afternoon game viewing drive and return to the camp at dusk.

**Dinner and overnight at Soysambu Mobile Camp**

**June 20 - DAY 6**

**SOYSAMBU CONSERVANCY**

You have the day to explore the conservancy, photograph game and engage in paintings if you wish.

*Soysambu Conservancy is a short drive from Nairobi. The Conservancy covers 48,000 acres (190 km<sup>2</sup>) and borders parts of the shores of Lake Elementaita. The lake is a breeding place for pelicans, which nest on small rocky islands in the lake. Both Lesser and Greater Flamingo frequent the lake which has more than 450 species of birdlife. In the west it shares a boundary with Lake Nakuru and there are over 50 mammal species found on Soysambu.*



**All meals and overnight at your Soysambu Mobile Camp**

**June 21 - DAY 7**

**LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK**



After breakfast you drive to Lake Nakuru National Park for game viewing. Lunch will be at the Lion Hill Lodge which offers a unique vantage point of this park and its inhabitants (including the thousands of flamingos which visit seasonally).

After lunch you take another game drive in search of rhino, the elusive leopard and myriad of plains game that the park is renowned for.

*Lake Nakuru National park is one of Kenya's most rich and surprising national parks and is widely regarded as the world's greatest bird spectacle - more than a million lesser flamingos painting the green waters of Lake Nakuru a fluttering pink. The 188 square kilometre park, enjoys some of East Africa's rarest creatures abound, including fast-growing populations of black and white rhino, the endangered Rothschild's giraffe, buffalo, waterbuck and lion. Lake Nakuru also enjoys a reputation as one of the best places in the country to spot the elusive leopard.*



**Dinner and overnight at Soysambu Mobile Camp (BLD)**

**June 22 - DAY 8**

**SOYSAMBU CONSERVANCY - MAASAI MARA RESERVE**



After breakfast you transfer to the airstrip for a private charter flight to Maasai Mara Game Reserve where you are met at the airstrip and transferred to Kichwa Tembo Camp, your base for the next three nights. (PLEASE NOTE: only 15 kilos of luggage per person are allowed on the flights.)

*Overlooking the endless, game-filled grasslands of the Maasai Mara, Kichwa Tembo offers a series of spacious, stylish tents with stunning views across the world's greatest natural wilderness. The 44 tents are a picture of rustic sophistication, with comfortable twin beds, en suite showers and shady verandahs with sweeping views over the surrounding savannah. From your tent, it's possible to see large herds of elephant, prides of big cats, and the*

*world's greatest wildlife spectacle – the migration of over a million wildebeest and zebra, which pass this way between July and September on their instinctive march to pastures new.*

After lunch, relax at the camp before this afternoon's game drive.

**Dinner and overnight at Kichwa Tembo Camp (BLD)**

**June 23 & 24 - DAY 9, 10 MAASAI MARA GAME RESERVE**

You have two days to explore the reserve on full day or morning and afternoon game viewing drives.



*The jewel in Africa's crown, Maasai Mara is host to the most spectacular array of wildlife. The open savannah, woodlands and tree-lined rivers creates an eco-system, which supports huge numbers of bird and mammal species.*

*Lion are found in abundance throughout the park, as are elephant, giraffe, a variety of gazelle species and zebra. Cheetah and leopard are also regularly seen and, if lucky, you may also find rhino. Game viewing is never dull in the Mara, and patience is often rewarded with unique sightings: a pride of lion stalking their prey; a solitary leopard retrieving its kill from the high branches of an acacia tree; male wildebeest sparring to attract females into their harem; or even a herd of elephant protecting their young from opportunistic predators.*

You will enjoy sundowners, picnic lunches, bush dinners.

You will also visit a Maasai village for a first hand experience of the day to day life of this community

**All meals and overnight at Kichwa Tembo Camp**



**June 25 - DAY 11**

**MASAI MARA - NAIROBI**

After breakfast transfer to the airstrip for an 1100/1215hrs scheduled flight Nairobi.

You are met and transferred to Nairobi Serena hotel for a day room.

The remainder of the day is at leisure and meals are on own

Early evening transfer to the airport for your homebound flight

END OF SERVICES

**PRICING:**

The price per person is \$9995 based on double occupancy, a minimum of 12 participants and the following accommodations: House of Waine, Aberdares Mobile Camp, Soysambu Mobile Camp, and Kichwa Tembo. The single room supplement is \$1480

Extras

Ballooning in Maasai Mara - US\$ 435 per person.

**The price include...**

- All transfers with assistance
- Accommodation in standard twin/double bedded rooms/tents
- Full breakfast throughout
- Meals and sight seeing as specified in Nairobi
- Full board (BLD) as indicated on safari
- Tea and/or coffee with all meals
- Laundry service, soft drinks, beers and house wines except at House of Waine and Kichwa Tembo
- Ground transportation in custom designed safari land cruisers
- Transfers and game viewing in 4-wheel drive vehicles
- Service of English speaking drivers
- Service of a Professional Artist throughout the trip
- All park entrance/conservation fees
- Game drives as specified
- Visit to a Maasai Manyatta
- Internal flights
- Flying Doctors evacuation service for the duration of the trip
- Portage of two pieces of luggage per person
- Government taxes and levies that are subject to change in case of increases by government/suppliers

**The costs exclude...**

- International airfare
- Entry visa fees currently US\$ 25.00 per person
- Personal and trip insurance
- All expenses of a personal nature such as laundry service, communication bills etc.
- Tips and gratuities