

Lake Manyara Serena Lodge:

Sopa Lodge to Lake Manyara is 2:15 hours drive; 2 nights Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge; game drives at Lake Manyara NP

It would be difficult to find a more dramatic setting than the Lake Manyara Serena Lodge. Situated at the edge of an escarpment, this deluxe lodge overlooks both the Great Rift Valley, which formed millions of years ago, and the beautiful soda lake of Manyara with its lavish supply of bird life.



The birds themselves have provided the inspiration for the lodge's architecture. Graceful, curving and free flowing, it is built in the local circular style and exudes an atmosphere of peacefulness where man and nature co-exist. From the patterns in the reception area resembling bird migration paths, to the soft geometric designs in the bedrooms, there is barely a single straight line in its design. The bar and restaurant offer guests both indoor and outdoor seating at each meal. Sumptuous menus, buffets and barbecues are served to guests alongside authentic African dishes.



WinWin Vacations, Africa Safari Specialist, PO BOX 30903, Seattle, WA 98113-0903 USA
Phone 206-297-7179, Toll Free 877-297-7179; Fax 425-696-0247; Wash. Seller of Travel #601433464

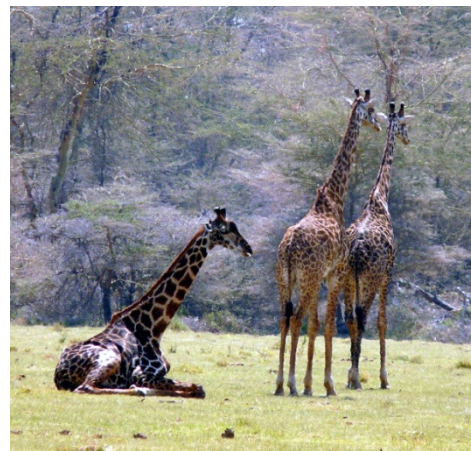
Lake Manyara

From whichever direction you approach Manyara, the first view is spectacular. From the east, the Rift Valley wall rises several hundred meters to form an impressive backdrop to the lake. From the west, if one is perched at the top of the escarpment, the park lies far below, with a long green strip of water that glistens in the sunlight.

This pretty little park, tucked into the base of the Rift Valley escarpment, is often used simply as a gentle introduction for safaris heading North, but Manyara can become a real live safari experience if you stop to camp here overnight ...



The vegetation around the lake's shores is surprisingly varied and comprises mostly forest, acacia woodland and open grassland. The park covers an area of 330 sq km of which about 230 sq km is the lake itself. You can always find hippo in the Simba River, elephant in the forests and a resident herd of Cape buffalo on the open plains at Mahali Pa Nyati, which means, 'the place of the buffalo' in Swahili. In addition, there are approximately 400 species of birds and with some luck you might see tree-climbing lions. Canoeing safaris are also available here, depending on the water level.





Lake Manyara was brought to the attention of a wider audience by the 1975 publication of the book “Among the Elephants”. Husband and wife team Ian and Oria Douglas-Hamilton spent several years here during the 1960's studying the elephants of the park and their famous book recounts their experiences is a real tale of joie de vivre. Ian's studies were intended to find a solution to the destruction of the groundwater forest by the elephants of the park. Attempts at keeping them fenced out had failed miserably and it was up to him to find a solution ... “Among the Elephants” is now sadly out of print, but used copies may be found on Amazon.com.

Shopping like crazy in Mbu wa Wtu:



**WinWin Vacations, Africa Safari Specialist, PO BOX 30903, Seattle, WA 98113-0903 USA
Phone 206-297-7179, Toll Free 877-297-7179; Fax 425-696-0247; Wash. Seller of Travel #601433464**