

# KARIBU NYUMBANI – ‘WELCOME HOME’



Kenya's North is desert country: hot, parched and broken by volcanic activity, where ancient blackened lava flows, endless thorn trees stretch from horizon to horizon and a place of harsh and stunning beauty. Commonly referred to by anthropologists as the 'Cradle of Mankind', Northern Kenya is endowed with rich pre-historic fossil heritage dating over 100Million years, back into the dinosaur age. In addition to fossil records, the existence of a long record of technological evolution with tools as old as 2.3Million years old also exists.

## JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

Make your pilgrim trip to the Cradle of Mankind and discover the land where our ancestors once trod. With its spectacular scenery, wildlife, remarkable cultures and archaeological treasures, Northern Kenya has become a favorite destination with adventure travelers.

Along the route expect to see minority communities such as the El Molo and the rich cultural heritage of the Samburu, Pokot, Rendile, Gabbra, Dassanach, Turkana and Watta some of whom are distant cousins of the more popular Maasai community.

# KENYA

THE CRADLE  
OF MANKIND



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## PLACES TO SEE AND THINGS TO DO LAKE TURKANA-THE JADE SEA

Lake Turkana is the world's largest permanent desert lake and the world's largest alkaline lake. This single body of water is over 250km long and is widely known as the Jade Sea, because of the remarkable, almost incandescent colour of its waters.

## LAKE TURKANA NATIONAL PARKS -UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Lake Turkana National Parks constituted of Sibiloi, the South Island and the Central Island National Parks are protected UNESCO World Heritage Site, serving as a stopover for migrant waterfowl and major breeding grounds for the Nile crocodile, hippopotamus and a variety of birds and insects.



## CENTRAL ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Central Island National Park on Lake Turkana is a great place to spend a day exploring its hills that neatly conceal three separate volcanic crater lakes. Each lake has its own unique ecology; flamingo, crocodiles and plenty of water birds can be seen.

## CAMP AT LOIYANGALANI

Both the East and Western shores of the Lake offer unique areas of interest. At the South East tip of the Lake, reached via South Horr, the tiny oasis of Loiyangalani ("the place of the trees") attracts many travelers to its palm groves, where a constant wind offers relief from the searing heat.

## LAKE TURKANA CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The 3 day carnival is a celebration of the rich cultures of the communities who live around the Jade Sea. Loiyangalani comes alive during this festival as communities showcase their music, dance, food and lifestyle to hundreds of visitors, both local and international.

## DESERT MUSEUM

Built on top of a hill, with a backdrop of the Jade Sea, the Desert Museum in Loiyangalani mirrors the cultures and lifestyles of the communities that live around Lake Turkana.



## EL MOLO VILLAGE VISIT

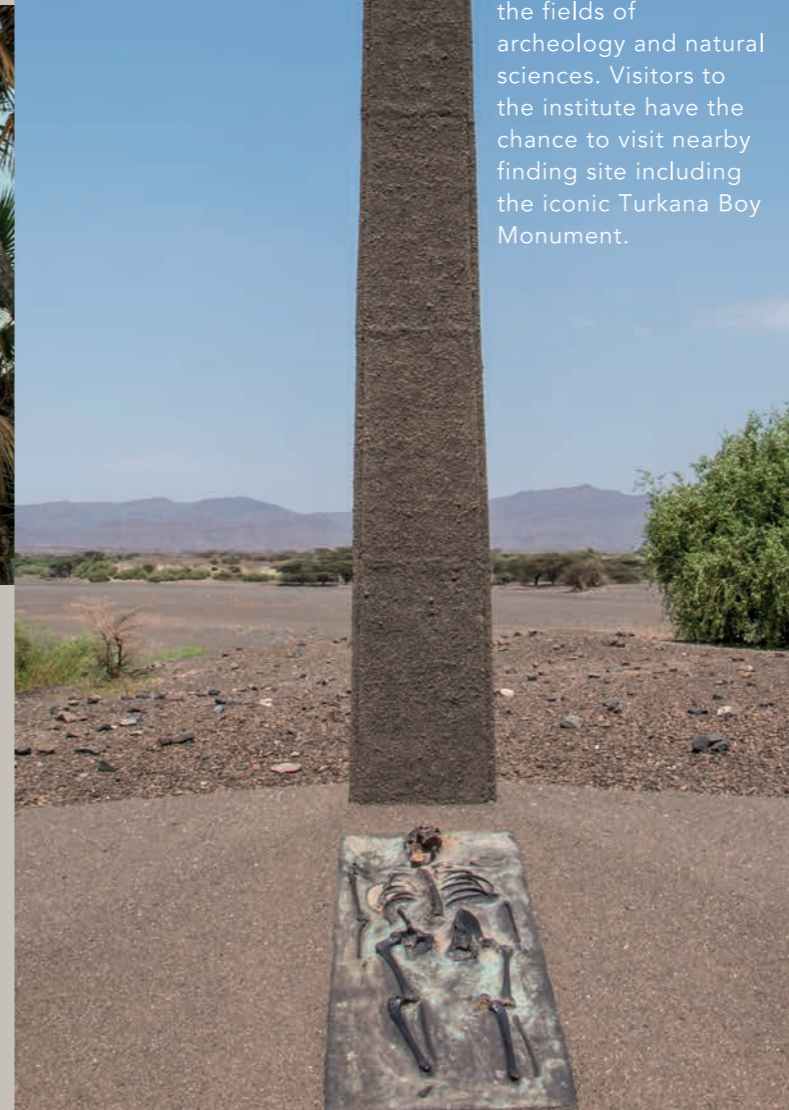
El Molo Bay is home to Kenya's smallest tribe. The El Molo, whose numbers have dwindled through intermarriage, linguistic and cultural absorption into the Turkana and Samburu communities, are one of the last true hunter-gatherer communities.

## KOABI FORA

Koobi Fora, a paleoanthropological site and Museum situated in Sibiloi National Park on the eastern shores of Lake Turkana, is popularly celebrated as the Cradle of Mankind. Koobi Fora is a very important site for Hominid Fossils, famous internationally since Richard Leakey's discovery of '1470' a 2 million year old skull of *Homo habilis*.

## HOME OF THE TURKANA BOY

A visit to the Turkana Basin Institute offers thrilling insights into archeology. Set up by Dr. Richard Leakey, the institute provides permanent infrastructure to enable year-round research on the fields of archeology and natural sciences. Visitors to the institute have the chance to visit nearby finding site including the iconic Turkana Boy Monument.



## GETTING THERE

Getting to Lake Turkana over land is no mean feat. While it is possible to fly to the Lake in a chartered or scheduled aircraft, it must be said that flying to Turkana somewhat distills the adventure.

This is place where the journey is very much part of the destination, and it is only by taking the long road that a real sense of remoteness is gained.

However, the flight itself is quite an experience, taking in wonderful vistas across the Suguta Valley and providing a bird's eye view of the Lake itself.

