



Aberdares National Park **- *Evergreen and thriving***



The Queen's Getaway

The **Aberdare National Park** is located in the central Kenya highlands and has the 2nd and 3rd highest peaks of Kenya's mountains. Aberdares has some of the most beautiful forests in the world owing to high amounts of rainfall and is key biodiversity location. It is fondly remembered as Queen Elizabeth's favorite getaway where proposal to get married to Prince William happened. A special place is the **Queen's Cave** where she had lunch/es served.

The topography is quite diverse with deep ravines that cut through the forested eastern and western slopes. The unusual vegetation, rugged terrain, **streams and waterfalls** make it an area of great physical beauty. Wildlife is plenty with some rarer sightings of lions, the golden cat and the bongo- an elusive forest antelope that lives in the bamboo forest. Eland and spotted and melanistic serval cats can be found higher up in the moorlands. .

The heart of the park is a fairy-land forest with wildlife coming to the edge of a floodlit water hole and a natural salt lick at **The ARK**, a uniquely architected forest lodge . Visitors can also indulge in **picnics, trout fishing** in the rivers, **climbing Aberdares** to Satima Peak and **camping in the moorlands**. Bird viewing is rewarding, with over 250 species of birds in the park, including the Jackson's Francolin, sparry hawk, goshawks, eagles, sunbirds and plovers. It is is home to **52 of Kenya's 67 highland species of birds**.

Aberdares is home to the magnificent Karuru Falls, the **highest and tallest waterfall in Kenya** plunging down 273 meters and 3rd tallest Chania Falls. The viewpoint is amazing and highly photogenic.

For mountain climbers, the falls is surrounded by several peaks, among the most popular being **Ol Donyo Lesatima** (4,001m), **Kinangop** (3,906m), **Elephant Hill** (3,906m), **Chebuswa Hill** (3,364m) and **Twin Hills** (3,300m). The hills and peaks are popular with climbers and provide a wonderful opportunity for those craving some solitude

Trip Ideas - Aberdares National Park

1 Night at the Ark from Nairobi or from Samburu

We recommend a 1 day, 1 night at The Ark Lodge in Aberdares enroute from Nairobi or Samburu.



Adventure

4 Days Aberdare Hike / Walking Safaris to Lesatima Peak

Day 1: Aberdare National Park

From hotel to Aberdares National Park for wildlife viewing in the lower forested zone popularly referred to as the Salient. The park is also rich in alpine flora and fauna, and scenic features including magnificent waterfalls, and over 250 species of birds including the Jackson's Francolin, sparrow hawk, goshawks, eagles, sunbirds and plovers. Dinner at reedbauck campsite.

Day 2:

After breakfast, driven to Karuru / Matubio junction for a drop off to start 4-5 hours hike through a track dotted with giant heather, tussock grass, open forest glades and rose wood to arrive at Honi River for overnight in tents. The hike offers opportunities to see buffaloes, elephant and many antelopes. Picnic lunch is served enroute.

Day 3:

After breakfast, start a 5-6 hours hike through a track dotted with giant heather, tussock grass, open forest glades and rose wood to arrive at Honi River. The hike offers opportunities to encounter with buffaloes, elephant and many antelopes. Picnic lunch is served enroute. Dinner and overnight at tented camp.

Hike up the Satima peak (4001m) taking less than 1 hour to arrive in time for an African dawn. On clear day there is opportunities to observe Mt. Kenya and the majestic Rift Valley on the horizon and the surrounding vicinities of Lake Naivasha, Lake Nakuru and the Daiga hills. Descend to meet the vehicle for onwards transfer.