

HIGH ALTITUDE TROUT FISHING MOUNT KENYA

- Day 1** - Fly from Nairobi to the slopes of Mount Kenya, 1 o/n Lake Rutundu Cottages
Days 2 & 3 - Spend the days hiking & fly fishing, 2 o/n Lake Rutundu Cottages
 (optional excursions for non fishing spouses)
Day 4 - Fly to Nairobi or Nanyuki to continue on your safari

Day 1 – Lake Rutundu, Mount Kenya

Day 1

- Fly Nairobi to Lake Rutundu, Mount Kenya
- Check in & briefing
- Lunch: at lodge
- PM acclimatizing & fly-fishing
- Overnight: Lake Rutundu Cottages
- Meal Plan: Full board



We take a 60-minute flight from Nairobi to the highest airstrip in Africa (11,000 ft) on the slopes of Mount Kenya. After lunch we spend our first afternoon out on the moorlands to begin acclimatizing to the altitude and fly-fish in Lake Rutundu, a small montane tarn situated some 10,500 feet above sea level in the Mt Kenya Afro-alpine environment.

Trout Fishing: This is some of the finest trout fishing in East Africa, where Rainbow Trout (introduced to Kenya in the 1920's from Scotland) of 2+ lbs are "average" and monsters of 6-8 lbs are frequently encountered. After a full day fishing one can retreat to a hot tub to thaw away the cold, or sit by a log fire enjoy good food, wine and the unique afro-alpine environment.

Lake Rutundu Cottages: Rutundu is situated on the northern slopes of Mount Kenya, at 10,200 feet or 3100 meters, just above the forest line. In total privacy, these log cabins are positioned overlooking Lake Rutundu, surrounded by alpine moorland, a home for unique bird life and vegetation.

Rutundu is not only a nature lover's paradise, but is also an ideal spot for fishermen and hikers. Both Lake Rutundu and Lake Alice, a two-

hour walk further up the mountain, are stocked with Rainbow Trout, and provide excellent opportunities for fishing. The average catch is 2 to 3 lbs, with larger fish reaching up to 6 lbs. (It is not everyone who can claim to have caught a trout within 5 Km of the equator.) A boat/punt is provided and there are three casting platforms. Previous experience in fly-fishing is not necessary.

There is a beautiful walk around Lake Alice, through Giant Groundsel and Heather forests. In contrast to this moorland terrain, the Cedar and Podo forest, a half hour drive below Rutundu, provides lovely walks and picnic sites. Nearby, in the Kizita River Gorge is a crystal clear river, with small brown trout to catch.



Days 2 & 3 – Lake Alice, Mount Kenya

Days 2 & 3

- **Wake-up & breakfast**
- **Spend the next 2 days fly fishing & trekking across afro-alpine moorland**
- **Optional excursion for non fishing spouses**
- **Picnic lunch**
- **Overnight: Lake Rutundu Cottages**
- **Meal Plan: Full board**



Each day we hike across the luscious afro-alpine moorland surrounded by the spectacular alpine peaks of Mt Kenya for 1 hour to Lake Alice for some of the finest fly-fishing on the continent.

This spectacular afro-alpine moorland is famous for its endemic plants such as Lobelia, Groundsel and Senecio, fascinating giant heathers and everlasting flowers all perfectly adapted for these unique climatic conditions, experiencing both summertime and wintertime temperatures in a single 24 hour period. We take a picnic lunch with us and spend the day in the fresh, clean air of Mount Kenya, possibly the purest air in Africa...



A helicopter is available (at additional expense) for those who do not like walking! or for those fishermen who wish to fish other yet undiscovered lakes. Our last guest to Lake Ellis higher up on the mountain was rewarded with an 8-pound monster.

Options for non -fishing spouses abound - either hiking the spectacular moorlands of Mt Kenya - or short flying safari visits to the nearby game

reserves of Samburu, Lewa Downs or the Mount Kenya Safari Club.

Moorland Hiking: hiking between Lakes Rutundu and Alice takes you across spectacular afro-alpine moorland famous for its endemic plants such as Lobelia, Groundsel and Senecio, fascinating giant heathers and everlasting flowers all perfectly adapted for these unique climatic conditions, experiencing both summertime and wintertime temperatures in a single 24 hour period.

Mount Kenya/Aberdare eco-system: Kenya's highest mountains, snow-covered peaks, fantastic views and montane forest eco-system with lush bamboo forest leading into montane forest. The lower slopes are covered with dry upland forest leading to true montane forest at 2,000 metres. On the upper shoulders of the Mountain the forest gives way to alpine moorlands with giant lobelia and other endemic alpine flora.

The Mountain has great symbolism locally: for the Kikuyu tribe it is the home of the Supreme Being: Ngai, a name also used by the Maasai tribes. In Kikuyu the Mountain is known as Kere Nyaga: Mountain of Brightness. For the Kamba tribe it is Ki Nya (said to be the origins of the country's name) meaning Place of the Ostrich – considered a messenger of Ngai by the Kamba and Meru tribes.





Lake Rutundu: On the tranquil slopes of Mount Kenya just outside the National Park and north east of the main peaks, lies Lake Rutundu. This is a most stunning mountain tarn with crystal clear water, which provides excellent opportunities for trout fishing. Fishing from the shore is difficult, but the three casting platforms ease the problem. A small rowing boat is also available. The lake is very deep which allows fish of well over two pounds to be caught on a regular basis. This, coupled with superb scenery and extensive views across endless African landscape, creates nothing less than a fisherman's haven.

Lake Alice: Slightly higher up the mountain, just inside the National Park, we find Lake Alice. Another beautiful mountain tarn stocked with trout and recognised as the one of the best places for trout fishing in Kenya. Surrounded by exotic vegetation, such as the enormous senecio and giant lobelia, this is an ideal location to enjoy a perfect days fishing.

The walk from Lake Rutundu is tiring but the spectacular views and knowledge that an elusive large trout possibly awaits you keeps your mind preoccupied. The lake has neither a casting platform nor a boat making the fishing that bit more of a challenge.

Day 4 – Depart



Day 4

- **Wake up**
- **Breakfast & check-out**
- **Depart**

After a leisurely breakfast and check out you fly to Nairobi for your international flight departure or on to Nanyuki to continue on your safari.