



PREHISTORIC
KENYA

Introduction

Uncover humankind's epic origin story in Kenya. Journey with researchers to ancient Rift Valley sites where fossils of early hominids were unearthed. Visit places where Leakey and others made major discoveries about human evolution.

Our guides have fieldwork and research experience. They aim to share their passion for prehistory on our tours.

Through our tours:


- Visit important prehistoric sites and monuments.
- Visit museums displaying ancient objects from the past.
- Go behind-the-scenes to see research labs.



*Uncover humankind's origins on a
Kenyan fossil tour led by researchers!*



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Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the Earth Sciences Labs and the Nairobi National Museum of the National Museums of Kenya



The Earth Sciences labs at the National Museums of Kenya are world-class. Their collections show how the planet evolved.

Highlights of the labs include:

- Fossils of ancient plants and animals that no longer exist. Some are the only examples of extinct species.
- Remarkable remains of early human ancestors. Like Turkana Boy, a *Homo erectus* child who lived 1.5 million years ago.
- Tools and artefacts that demonstrate the evolution of technology. From the oldest known stone tools to more recent relics left by modern humans.
- Microfossils provide clues about ancient environments based on fossilized pollen.

Meet the dedicated lab crews: scientists, collections managers, and data experts. See behind the scenes how they study specimens, organize materials, and record information.

Highlights

- Get a close-up look at real fossils
- Learn from researchers about their work and findings
- See displays illustrating the succession of hominids
- Handle artefacts and craft your own stone tool

Price



- \$50 per person.
- Book your spot on this exclusive tour through our website.
- Please contact us directly if you need assistance or have any questions.

Time and Duration



- Every Saturday, 9 AM to 12 PM.

Includes



- Private expert-led tour in English.
- Entry fees for all research departments at NMK.



Homo Erectus

Who This Tour Is For



- Families, tourists, and anyone passionate about human origins and prehistoric discoveries.
- Anyone interested in archaeology, palaeontology, and exploring our ancestry.
- Students and researchers seeking insights from top experts.
- Corporate groups looking for a unique team experience.
- The tour includes walking through the museum galleries. We recommend it for ages 5 and up.

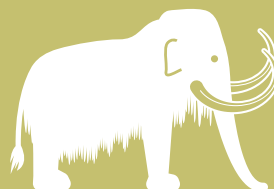
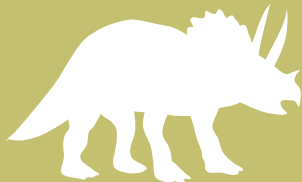
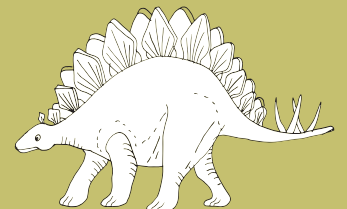
Meeting Point



- Entrance to the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Arrive 15 min early.
- Optional pickup/drop-off available - enquire for fees.

Some Fascinating Facts About the National Museums of Kenya

- It is the most visited tourist destination in Kenya, welcoming over 500,000 visitors per year.
- Founded in 1910, it's one of the oldest museums in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Houses over 5 million specimens of Kenya's cultural and natural heritage.
- Manages many archaeology and paleontology field sites critical to human origins research.
- Home to some of the most famous hominin fossil discoveries worldwide like Turkana Boy.
- Is an active research institution with state-of-the-art facilities for conservation and study.
- Plays a leading role in education, exhibition, and community engagement about Kenya's heritage.



Karura Cave Adventure: Human dwellings nearly a million years ago



Nestled within the lush Karura Forest just minutes from bustling Nairobi lies a portal into Kenya's ancient past. Karura Forest Cave is the site of one of the most significant archaeological discoveries in the region - stone tools dating back nearly 1 million years. These ancient artifacts, on display at the Nairobi National Museum, provide insight into the activities and lifestyles of early human settlements in the area.

In addition to its archaeological significance, Karura Forest Cave has an important place in Kenya's more recent history. During the struggle for independence in the 1950s, the caves served as hideouts for freedom fighters evading British colonial forces. Visitors can imagine what it was like for resistance members taking refuge in the cave's natural fortification.

Today, Karura Forest stands as one of Nairobi's most treasured nature destinations. Crisscrossed by cycling and hiking trails, shaded by waterfall and rivers, this urban oasis offers the perfect spot for a picnic or family day trip away from the city bustle. As one of Kenya's most vital conservation sites protecting indigenous flora and fauna, Karura also lets visitors experience the beauty of the country's wilderness just minutes from the capital.

With its multifaceted history, wealth of outdoor activities, and natural splendor, Karura Forest Cave provides a convenient escape into the past and present landscapes of Kenya.

Highlights

- Learn from researchers about these priceless prehistoric discoveries.
- Stone tools from nearly 1 million years ago discovered here provide insights into ancient human settlements.
- Set within the lush Karura Forest, minutes from Nairobi.
- One of Nairobi's most vital forest conservation areas, protecting indigenous flora and fauna.

Price



- \$75 per person.
- Book your spot on this exclusive tour through our website.
- Please contact us directly if you need assistance or have any questions.

Time and Duration



- Some Saturdays, 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM
- Please check website for the schedule.
- The Karura Forest Cave is about 8 kms from the Nairobi National Museum.

Includes



- Transportation from the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Evening snack and water will be provided.
- Private expert-led tour in English.
- Site entry fees.

Who This Tour Is For



- Families, tourists, and anyone passionate about human origins and prehistoric discoveries.
- Anyone interested in archaeology, palaeontology, and exploring our ancestry.
- Students and researchers seeking insights from top experts.
- Corporate groups looking for a unique team experience.
- The tour includes walking through the museum galleries. We recommend it for ages 10 and up.

Meeting Point



- Entrance to the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Arrive 15 min early.
- Optional pickup/drop-off available - enquire for fees.

Some Fascinating Facts About the Karura Forest Cave

- Stone tools dating back over 700,000 years evidence early human settlement in the Pleistocene era.
- Hundreds of quartz and basalt tools including handaxes were uncovered in excavations between 2012-2014.
- The cave sheltered freedom fighters during the Mau Mau Uprising against British rule in the 1950s.
- Impressive limestone formations fill the cave such as stalactites and flowstones.
- It's situated within Karura Forest, a 1,000 acre protected area in Nairobi housing endemic flora and fauna.



Uncovering Our Human Story at a Rare Fossil Site in Nairobi



Kantis is a recently excavated fossil site in Kenya's Rift Valley.

The site produced remains of a 3.3 million year old early human ancestor called Australopithecus.

Dr. Emma Mbua is a researcher who studied Kantis. She says the site is a rare and important find.

Australopithecus fossils have also been found in Ethiopia and Tanzania. The famous Lucy fossil from Ethiopia lived 3.85-2.95 million years ago. With a small brain similar to apes, Australopithecus is considered one of the best known early human ancestors in East Africa.

Our tour brings this significant fossil location to life through expert insights and hands-on experience.

Highlights

- Hear a talk by a researcher at the fossil site.
- Enjoy a picnic lunch at the site.
- Learn about the site's history and famous hominin fossil discoveries at the visitor center through exhibits
- Take a guided walking tour of the excavation site to see firsthand where fossils were found

Price



- \$125 per person.
- Book your spot on this exclusive tour through our website.
- Please contact us directly if you need assistance or have any questions.

Time and Duration



- Some Saturdays, 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM.
- Please check website for the schedule.
- The Kantis Fossils site is about 25 kms from the Nairobi National Museum.

Includes



- Transportation from the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Evening snack and water will be provided.
- Private expert-led tour in English.
- Site entry fees.

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- Students and researchers seeking insights from top experts.
- Corporate groups looking for a unique team experience.
- The tour includes walking through the museum galleries. We recommend it for ages 10 and up.

Meeting Point



- Meet at the entrance to the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Arrive 15 min early.
- Optional pickup/drop-off available - enquire for fees.

Some Fascinating Facts About the Kantis Fossils Site

- The 3.5 million year old site yielded early remains of ancient humans called Australopithecus afarensis.
- Thousands of mammal fossils found include hippos, monkeys, antelopes, rhinos and giraffes.
- First fossils were discovered in 2009 by local farmers. Excavations began in 2010.
- Fragments of human fossils found include teeth and an arm bone. These were rigorously studied.

Learn more of the Kantis site here:

<https://popular-archaeology.com/article/australopithecus-fossils-found-east-of-the-great-rift-valley/>



Olorgesailie's Stone Age The best stone tools industry!



Olorgesailie has evidence of some of the earliest human technology. Stone tools found here mark an important milestone in human history.

Dr. Mary Leakey pioneered research at the site starting in 1942. She built on earlier work by J.W. Gregory in 1919.

Olorgesailie has a large collection of hand axes used for butchering by early humans. Animal fossils with cut marks have also been found. Research continues today, with new discoveries being made.

The site is located in the Great Rift Valley, about 67 km southwest of Nairobi. Long ago, a lake occupied the Olorgesailie basin. Climate change and volcanic eruptions transformed the landscape over time, making it drier.

Our interactive tour brings ancient Olorgesailie to life. Participants gain a deeper perspective on human origins through education and experience.

Highlights

- Talk: History of the Site
 - Geology of the site
 - Archaeological research of the site and surrounding
- Guided tour of the excavated sites
- Hands-On-Activities; Team Building cum learning activities.
 - Make and Use Stone Tools.
 - Archaeological Survey
 - Archaeological Excavation
 - Geological Expeditions
- Tour of Lake Magadi

Price



- \$175 per person.
- Book your spot on this exclusive tour through our website.
- Please contact us directly if you need assistance or have any questions.

Time and Duration



- Some Saturdays, 1 PM to 6:30 PM
- Please check website for the schedule.
- Olorgesailie is about 70 kms from the Nairobi National Museum.

Includes



- Transportation from the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Evening snack and water will be provided.
- Private expert-led tour in English.
- Site entry fees.

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- Anyone interested in archaeology, palaeontology, and exploring our ancestry.
- Students and researchers seeking insights from top experts.
- Corporate groups looking for a unique team experience.
- The tour includes walking through the museum galleries. We recommend it for ages 10 and up.

Meeting Point



- Entrance to the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Arrive 15 min early.
- Optional pickup/drop-off available - enquire for fees.

Some Fascinating Facts About the Olorgesailie Prehistoric Site

- Evidence of human occupation dates back over 1 million years to the Early Stone Age.
- Thousands of stone tools like handaxes and cleavers made of volcanic rock unearthed here.
- The landscape was once lush lakes that dried into grassy plains over time.
- A volcanic eruption 500,000 years ago preserved artifacts and fossils remarkably well.
- Many animal fossils found including elephants, hippos, antelopes and crocodiles.



Exploring the Cradle of Humankind: Kenya's Prehistoric Sites



Begin your day with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Nairobi National Museum, led by expert researchers. Get up close to famous fossils like Turkana Boy and handle real stone tools used by ancient hominins over 1 million years ago. Through hands-on interactions, discover Kenya's vital role in understanding humanity's roots in the Cradle of Humankind.

Next, travel back nearly 1 million years at Karura Forest Cave, where stone tools provide glimpses into early human settlement. Used as a hideout during the struggle for independence, it now serves as a nature respite with trails, rivers, and waterfalls minutes from Nairobi.

After lunch, explore Kantis Fossils Site, where 3.3-million-year-old hominin fossils were found. Learn about groundbreaking discoveries at the visitor center before a guided walk through the excavation site, envisioning ancient hominins. Cap off at the museum housing fossil specimens found here.

End your day 1 million years ago at Olorgesailie Prehistoric Site in the Rift Valley. Led by experts, uncover how climate change transformed the landscape over millennia. View stone tools and fossils offering perspectives into early human innovation and adaptation.

With 4 unique destinations, this immersive tour provides unprecedented insights into Kenya's human origins, prehistory, struggle for freedom, and natural heritage. Come face-to-face with our hardy ancestors and the landscapes that shaped them.

Price



- \$250 per person.
- Book your spot on this exclusive tour through our website.
- Please contact us directly if you need assistance or have any questions.

Time and Duration



- Sundays, 9 AM AM to 5:30 PM
- Spanning roughly 160 kms, this far-reaching yet rewarding day takes you across beautiful Kenyan landscapes to four premier destinations that together tell the incredible story of this region's natural history and early human activity.

Includes



- Transportation from the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Food and entry fees to all the sites.
- Private expert-led tour in English.

Who This Tour Is For



- Families, tourists, and anyone passionate about human origins and prehistoric discoveries.
- Anyone interested in archaeology, palaeontology, and exploring our ancestry.
- Students and researchers seeking insights from top experts.
- Corporate groups looking for a unique team experience.
- The tour includes walking through the museum galleries. We recommend it for ages 14 and up.

Meeting Point



- Entrance to the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Arrive 15 min early.
- Optional pickup/drop-off available - enquire for fees.

Some Fascinating Facts About the sites you will visit

National Museum

- Kenya's most visited attraction, 500,000 visitors yearly.
- Founded 1910, one of oldest in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Houses over 5 million cultural & natural specimens.
- Home to famous fossils like 1.5 million year old Turkana Boy.

Karura Cave

- Stone tools date over 700,000 years, evidence early humans.
- Hundreds of quartz & basalt tools uncovered 2012-2014.
- Impressive stalactite & flowstone limestone formations.

Kantis Fossils

- 3.5 million year old Australopithecus afarensis fossils.
- Thousands of mammal fossils like hippos, monkeys, antelopes.
- Human fossils include teeth & arm bone, rigorously studied.

Olorgesailie

- 1 million year old evidence of early human occupation.
- Thousands of volcanic rock tools like handaxes unearthed.
- 500,000 year old volcanic eruption preserved fossils.
- Many animal fossils like elephants, hippos, antelopes.



Discover the Great Rift Valley: Kenya's Archaeological and Geographical 2-day Tour



On this 2-day tour from Nairobi, you will get to explore some of the Rift Valley's most magnificent natural wonders as well as gain insights into its archaeological gems. At the Nairobi National Museum, visit the galleries and snake park before going behind-the-scenes at the Earth Sciences lab for a special look at artifacts and fossils. Drive to the Great Rift Valley viewpoint to take in stunning vistas of this geographic phenomenon.

Begin your day with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the Nairobi National Museum, led by expert researchers. Get up close to famous fossils like Turkana Boy and handle real stone tools used by ancient hominins over 1 million years ago. Through hands-on interactions, discover Kenya's vital role in understanding humanity's roots in the Cradle of Humankind.

The Great Rift Valley (GRV) is a lowland formed when the earth's plates moved apart. It is the most known rift. The East Africa Rift Valley is that part of the GRV that cuts across East African Countries, Kenya included.

In Kenya, the Great Rift is divided into south, central, and north rift valleys. Dr. Louis Leakey, a world-renowned Archaeologist cum Paleontologist, started his career in the Central Rift Valley in 1927. Today some collections of fossils and stone tool technology have been discovered that made East Africa the cradle of humankind.

Spend the night at Lake Naivasha before heading to Hell's Gate National Park, where you can hike, cycle or drive through its spectacular landscapes. Hike Mt. Eburru and visit the Kariandusi Prehistoric Site to see evidence of early human activity in the area. Learn about the local diatomite mining industry at the mines and factory. End with dinner overlooking the breathtaking Lake Elementaita.

This 2-day immersion into the Rift Valley provides a look at Kenya's diverse natural beauty as well as its archaeological heritage, bringing to life Dr. Leakey's pioneering work in the region.



Price

- \$500 per person.
- This specialised 2-day expedition is available for groups of 5 or more upon request. Please inquire with us if you are interested in booking.



Time and Duration

- One night and two days.
- The total travel distance is likely to be 350 kms over two days.



Includes

- Transportation from the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Food, accommodation and entry fees to all the sites.
- Private expert-led tour in English.



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- Students and researchers seeking insights from top experts.
- Corporate groups looking for a unique team experience.
- The tour includes walking through the museum galleries. We recommend it for ages 14 and up.



Meeting Point

- Entrance to the National Museum on Museum Hill Road.
- Arrive 15 min early.
- Optional pickup/drop-off available - enquire for fees.

Some Fascinating Facts About the sites you will visit

- The Nairobi National Museum houses the 1.5 million year old fossil skeleton of Turkana Boy, one of the most complete early human fossils ever found.
- The Kariandusi Prehistoric Site contains some of the earliest evidence of human activity in Kenya, including tools dating back 1 million years.
- Lake Naivasha is home to over 400 species of birds and large pods of hippos that can be seen grazing on the lake shores.
- Mt. Eburru is an extinct volcano that was active over 2 million years ago during the creation of the Rift Valley.
- Diatomite mining around Lake Elementaita utilizes the microscopic fossilized remains of algae that accumulated over millennia at the lake bottom.
- The Great Rift Valley running through Kenya provides evidence of the tectonic forces that have shaped the landscape and geology of East Africa.



