



# Karibuni Kenya

Karibuni (Welcome to..)

It is highly probable that mankind began in Kenya. In 1959 Dr. Louis Leakey discovered skull fragments that dated back more than 1.75 million years. Then, 40 years later, a French-Kenyan team uncovered 'Millennium Man', which suggested that there was a civilization in Kenya at least 2 million years ago.

Early man obviously liked it here, which is not surprising because, although Kenya straddles the Equator, large areas of the country are at 3,500 feet and more above sea level, resulting in a very pleasant climate. Add to this a landscape of expansive grassy plains, grazed by hundreds of thousands of animals, fertile uplands and large tracts of rainforest and you have a near perfect environment.

This land was not only attractive to human kind but it was also a paradise for numerous species of animals and birds and although excessive hunting and poaching in the last century severely reduced the numbers of game, Kenya is still one of the best countries in the world to view animals in the wild. In all, Kenya boasts 80 major animal species, including 'The Big Five' - lion, elephant, rhino, buffalo and leopard - and with more than 1000 recorded species of birds,

Kenya is considered the greatest country in Africa for bird watching.

The safari, which is simply the Swahili word for 'journey', began in Kenya and today hundreds of thousands of visitors come to the country to experience it for themselves.

Perhaps the most famous of all Kenya's national parks and reserves is the Maasai Mara National Reserve, which is sited on the lands of the local, charismatic Maasai people, who populate southern Kenya and northern Tanzania, and which is also the setting for the BBC series 'Big Cat Diaries'.

The Maasai Mara covers an area of 1200 square miles and is witness to one of the greatest animal migrations on earth. Abutting the Maasai Mara, and over the border in neighbouring Tanzania, lies the vast Serengeti National Park, home to massive concentrations of plains animals. Commencing in June every year, these huge herds migrate northwards across 700 miles of the Serengeti and over the Kenya border into the Maasai Mara in search of greener pastures. In all, some 1.5 million wildebeest, 200,000 zebra and 300,000 Thomson gazelle make the journey.