

NORTH

Giraffe reticulata in Samburu.

© SOPHIE ROCHERIEUX





ÉTHIOPIE

Moyale

MANDERA

A2

Maikona

C82

Marsabit

Marsabit National Park

Log'Logo

Laisamis

Merille

C80

WAJIR

Wajir

B9

ISIOLO

C116

B9

Shaba N.R.

rings

lo

MERU

Meru N.P.

THARAKA NITHI

EMBU

Bisanadi N.R.

TANA RIVER

GARISSA

C81

A3

20km



NORTH

Northern Kenya is a vast body that differs greatly from the south. For many, it's a black hole, or at best a blur on the map... which still occupies two thirds of the country! The sedentary, agricultural and densely populated Kenyan civilization is actually concentrated in the south, when the north, as we discover it, is increasingly deserting, "Sahelian", influenced by Islam and the couchitic civilizations; sporadically populated, weakly equipped with infrastructure... and dangerous! To give more details, there are two nords.

▶ The northwest, in a triangle between Lake Turkana, Marsabit and Isiolo. It is a remote area, but more easily accessible to travelers. If this north is sparsely populated, semi-desert and through long dusty trails that make the journey adventurous, it is entirely under control of the central state, and has enough tourist attractions so that we want to discover it. Just north of the central highlands, the Samburu country (easily accessible) and its national park is one of the highlights of a visit to Kenya. The savanna is more beautiful than ever, the landscapes of acacias and the hills of the high plateaus, wonderful, the whole fauna; it is simply a stunning beauty. Lake Turkana, the "Jade Sea", is also of a strange beauty, lost in the middle of the steppes, while the traditional Samburu or Turkana habitat has intriguing and intriguing.

▶ **The immense northeast**, from the coast to the Somali border, to the longitude of Marsabit, is an immense space of deserts and semi-deserts, inhabited (low) by Muslim semi-nomadic tribes, which is undoubtedly a fascinating space to discover. But its permanent state of insecurity may even discourage even the most reckless. Banditry prevails there, the Kenyan army controls the main axes, and

poverty is large, accompanied by the instability caused by the presence of Somali rebels in the region. In Dadaab, this is one of the world's largest refugee camps. It is here that droughts are raging vigorously. Unless you go with a military squadron, it's an area that we're formally discouraging from boarding for a tourist purpose.

ISIOLO

Isiolo marks the border between verdant highlands and desert north. This is the last place you can easily find gasoline, what you're doing (small bustling market), banks and a post. When you arrive from Nanyuki, the contrast is striking. In a few kilometers, the road goes down several hundred meters, the temperature suddenly looks canicular, the vegetation is stunted and dusty, the population itself is different. The Samburu, the Turkana, the Rendile or the Boran replaced the Kikuyu, and the city is mainly populated by Somalis. This includes the presence of imposing mosques. Isiolo is a true ethnic crossroads, crossing all the tribes of the North. It is also a mandatory step for all tourists traveling to the parks of Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba. But the city itself has little interest.

Beyond Isiolo, the asphalted road extends to Marsabit, then the Ethiopian border.

The fact that it is too rare to be mentioned, it is good to know that it is very close to Isiolo, on the road to Samburu, that the first exclusively female community has been established. It does not accept any male presence. In this small village called Umoja, we have gathered for the best and for the worst of some fifteen women, revolted against the living conditions of women in the traditional villages and by the male diktat

Indefect in Desert North

▶ **A safari in the Samburu Park** is one of the most beautiful landscapes in Kenya with the discovery of a richissious fauna, in qualitative infrastructures and far from the overload of southern parks.

▶ **Only in Marsabit Park**, you will evolve in an extraordinary oasis of greenery lost amidst a private desert of all life. Suddenly, like a mirage, will appear before you Lake Paradise... a place simply enchanting.

▶ **The crossing of the Chalbi desert** and its expanses to the infinite platitude is an unforgettable experience, but also a real adventure.

▶ **Those seeking isolation will hike in the Cherangani Hills**, in the heart of Pokot territory, the name of a tribe installed in wonderful mountain landscapes.

which is sometimes too violent. In the line of this refuge village, three other women's communities were created in the region.

Transport

How to get there and leave

► **This is happening:** The best way to go to Isiolo and explore the region is the car. You can of course find matches and buses that travel from Meru, Nanyuki, and even Nairobi (one express a day, about 4:30 a. m.), and you can push up to Marsabit, but it will be difficult for you to continue your path to the northeast and Lake Turkana... unless you have a lot of time and... a soul of adventurer.

► **For the north and travelers without car...** Since the road was redone, buses and matatus have been driving up to Marsabit and stopping at Archers Post. You will then need to find a private vehicle to enter one of the parks (Samburu or Shaba). Some are negotiating at Arch Post; have no less than 4,000 Ksh (bargaining) to reach Samburu Campsite, for example.

► **Another means** of transport is trucks traveling to Loiyangalani on the shores of Lake Turkana (via Maralal or Marsabit). You will travel with the Samburu, the Rendille or the Gabbra who return to their territories, jused on a dumpster filled with bricks and non-perishable food destined for the shops of the northern villages. A challenging experience because of the overwhelming heat and the deplorable state of the roads, once you leave the main axis (A 2) that leads to Marsabit.

► **Plane.** A brand new international airport was inaugurated in June 2017. It should allow many travelers to travel to the region. The goal is also to remove the national parks from the south, to attract tourists to lower-frequented parks in the north (Meru, Samburu and Shaba) but equally worthy of interest. Jambo Jet, Kenya Airways, Air Kenya and Fly 540 provide weekly flights with Nairobi. Contact the companies.

Practical

Money

You will find in Isiolo several banks with ATM machines, on the main road crossing the city (Barclays, Equity Bank, KCB...).

■ CONSOLIDATED BANK OF KENYA

Kenyatta Highway

☎ +254 645 25 85

www.consolidated-bank.com

isiolo@consolidated-bank.com

On the main road (A 2), on your left (coming

from the south), next to Gantaal Bus Office.
Open Monday to Saturday from 8.30am to 4pm.
Cash-point (ATM).

Sleeping

■ BOMEN HOTEL

Bomen Hotel

☎ +254 721 698 849 / +254 700 858 882

isiolobomenhotel@gmail.com

Turn right after Moty Pearl Hotel, which is the corner.

Standard room with 2,500 Ksh for a person, 3,500 per two (with the breakfast). La Deluxe, a little larger, is to 3,500 Ksh for one or two people.

If you have to spend a night in Isiolo, the Bomen Hotel (which has long been the only modern hotel in the city) remains the most pleasant. It has a total of forty rooms on three floors, around a tower, with bathroom and net. Clean, airy and sunny (especially third rooms). Small restaurant inside and some terrace tables to drink tea. Without charm, but well kept, clean and safe. Guarded parking. Wifi.

■ MOTI PEARL HOTEL

A2

☎ +254 725 800 820

www.moti.co.ke – moti@moti.co.ke

On the road to Marsabit. Opposite Barclay's Bank.

2,750 Ksh for a single room and 4,000 Ksh for a double (with the breakfast).

Completely renovated, this hotel has 40 rooms arranged around a patio (overlooking a shopping gallery) and on the street. They have a bathroom, balcony, TV and wifi. You will not be particularly quiet, but the rooms are correct.

Knife & fork

■ CHUCKIE'S CHIPS AND CAFÉ TOO

Timau

☎ +254 720 626 292 / +254 710 139 724

rowenag04@gmail.com

40 km from Nanyuki, on the Isiolo Road, after the village of Timau and before the bifurcation towards Samburu.

Open every day from 8am to 6pm.

A stopover if you walk around. The best fries in the area for Chuckie's, there is a boutique of beautiful souvenirs of all kinds, and hidden behind the store, a small relaxation area in the garden, the Coffee Too, offers all sorts of coffee, smoothies, milkshakes and snacks. A pleasant break on the road to Samburu. On request, it is even possible to camp on site free of charge. It is not unusual for cycling groups to take a step. Unfortunately, a gas station under construction right next door may compromise the tranquility of the site.

LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY



The vast and beautiful plateau des Laikipias extends northwestern Mount Kenya, over several thousand square kilometers. It is here, on these foothills, that a new type of tourism is developed which could be described as more ecological and more 'equitable'. UNESCO understood that, since the committee of the organization extended the perimeter of the World Heritage of Mount Kenya to the Lewa area in June 2013. It is about recognizing the scale of the conservation work undertaken for decades in the very beautiful reserve of Lewa Downs, which belongs to the Craig family.

Following a meeting with Anna Merz, the rhinoceros specialist, Ian Craig decided in the early 1980 s to transform part of the family ranch into a wildlife sanctuary dedicated specifically to the protection of rhinoceros. The results were very promising and in 1995 the family decided that the entire ranch would be dedicated to animal protection. The means used were considerable (equipment and weaponry of guards, surveillance vehicles, helicopter, studies and census of animals, closure...) and, above all, the Craig had the right and generous idea of closely associating local populations with their project. The success was immediate, the fauna proliferated peacefully, the tourists were at the meeting and the ranch became the first employer in the region. But the only objective of this reserve is to preserve the environment. It also contributes to the promotion and financing of all kinds of actions for local communities, particularly in the areas of education (school supplies, scholarships...) and health.

In order to provide wild animals with a protection space that was truly adapted to their needs, particularly in the area of migration, the ranch leaders succeeded in convincing certain communities in the region in the early 1990 s to embark on equivalent projects. As a result, several reserves have already occurred around Lewa Downs, others are expected. The ultimate goal is to secure the entire elephants migration corridor that extends from the lay-up plateau to the south to the Matthew's mountain in the north. These new reserves include the N 'Gwesi Group Ranch, Lekurruki Community Conservation Group Ranch or Namuniak Wildlife Conservation Trust. All these entities are managed directly by local communities, namely the Maasai, Laikipiak for the first two and the Samburu for the third. In order to provide favorable conditions for the preservation and development of wildlife, these communities had to accept a decrease in their only source of income, namely their livestock. They have made the gamble on ecotourism and, at the moment, everyone finds their account: animals are protected, tourists are filled and local populations are enchanted.

The benefits derived largely compensate for the loss of livestock and are fully and directly returned to the populations or devoted to Community actions (infirmities, schools, hydraulic projects...).

This new type of tourism is a bargain for visitors and Kenya. It allows you to discover wildlife under exceptional and original conditions: wilderness areas, grandiose landscapes, direct contact with local populations, remarkable comfort and guaranteed relaxation. The antithesis of the group trip in minibus that had made Kenya's success. The only "hic" in the enchanting array that can be made of these exceptional places is, however, big, it concerns the rates... extremely high. These lodges are reserved for very, very easy customers. Authenticity has a price.

Transport

How to get there and leave

This is a bit the black dot of these reserves because, except for the readily accessible Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, others are more difficult to access. These reservations normally only accommodate visitors who have booked one or more nights in one of their lodges. It is at the time of this reservation that you will be told how to go there if, of course, you want to go with your own vehicle (4 x 4 mandatory). In the vast majority of cases, however, visitors travel by plane or accompanied by a guide from the agency by which they have reserved.

Sleeping

■ LEWA HOUSE

Lewa

☎ +254 206 000 457 / +254 723 580 330

www.bush-and-beyond.com

info@bush-and-beyond.com

This lodge offers many activities: game-drives, horse riding, hiking... If you are traveling with family, the roof chalet is ideal. The cottages include a double bedroom and one bedroom with twin beds each with a private bathroom. There is a large veranda where you can enjoy biscuits and coffee.

■ LEWA SAFARI CAMP

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

☎ +254 733 490 234 / +254 724 255 374

<http://lewasafericamp.com>

info@chelipecock.co.ke

Fixed rate formula "All inclusive", all inclusive, including activities, reservations and rates by email.

With its view of Mount Kenya, Lewa Safari Camp joined the prestigious Elewana Group in 2015. The Lewa is a safari-type camp located in an area where wild fauna abounds. This campsite consists of eleven tents, open on a grandiose

landscape, with wooden parquet and roof roof (all equipped with veranda and small garden), swimming pool, lounge area and dining room. There is no shortage of activities: walking in the savannah, archeological excursions, horse riding, horseback tours, and wellness treatments and treatments. One of these unique and exclusive places offering a dream immersion in a wild and preserved nature, in the heart of Lewa's famous animated sanctuary.

■ WILDERNESS TRAILS LODGE

☎ +254 796 035 177

lelawilderness.com

reservations@lelawilderness.com

Fixed rate formula "All inclusive", all inclusive including activities, reservations on the site or by email.

This remarkable lodge is located in the heart of the Réserve reserve. The cosy cottages are located in the beautiful flowered garden of the family house of Craig (owners of the reserve). The vast residence is still inhabited, giving the place a special and convivial atmosphere. The happy (and rich) guests benefit from the remarkable infinity pool and the tastefully furnished, family-run lounge bar and bar. The lodge offers a multitude of activities including horseback riding and helicopter excursions to visit nearby villages or to go fishing on the slopes of Mount Kenya! An exceptional place that has its price.

Sightseeing

■ LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY ★★

☎ +254 643 131 405 / +254 722 203 562

www.lewa.org – info@lewa.org

The area of 26,000 ha is located about fifteen kilometers before Isiolo, on the left of the road when you come from Nanyuki. A sign shows you the entrance. You then have about 10 km

of good track to reach the reserve. Caution, the reservation is closed during rainy season (April and May). This is probably the most famous and beautiful ranch in Kenya. His visit is an enchantment. You need to stay in one of the luxury lodges of the reserve or through an agency to enjoy it.

In the midst of extremely diverse landscapes (savanes, forests, swamps...), a wildlife of exceptional richness is evolving with the silhouette of Mount Kenya. They are all here: waterbucks, oryx, elands, zebras, giraffes, great koudous, jackals, hyenas, leopards, cheetahs, elephants, buffalo, white and black rhinos, and even a few lions. It's a kind of Maasai Mara in miniature. The excellent management of wildlife has allowed animals to reproduce and grow safely, to the point that some are now too many (giraffes, elephants in periods, zebras). There are also rhinoceros and Grévy zebras. The only animals that could possibly fake you are lions (few), elephants (when they migrated to the north) or the rarer sitatunga antelope (very fearful and hidden in the marshes).

IL NGWESI GROUP RANCH ★

The reserve, located northwest of Lewa, is managed by the Maasai Laikipiak community. They followed the advice of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and abandoned some of their pastoral activities to protect the environment. The animals are less numerous than in Lewa, but the landscapes are absolutely remarkable and the landscape is guaranteed.

Your Maasai hosts will let you discover all the secrets of their region and the typical fauna of this part of Kenya: reticulated giraffes, zebras of Grévy, oryx, dik-dik, gerenuks, and especially elephants, sometimes very many in the ranch, this being located on their migration corridor.



Kenya, Laikipia, Il Ngwesi, awele players.

■ IL N'GWESI

☎ +254 741 770 540 / +254 724 636 568
www.ilngwesi.com – info@ilngwesi.com
Rates and reservations by email.

Winner of several international awards, this community ecolodge is located on the reserve of Il N'Gwesi. The ensemble has a remarkable architecture, fully integrated into the landscape. Large wooden buildings have a very successful " ethnic" decoration. Also managed by the maasai community, the lodge welcomes, in six charming bandas, up to seventeen people, who find absolute calm, sumptuous landscapes, many activities (hiking, village visits, slug-dos safaris...) and a very beautiful swimming pool. The lodge is generally rented in full and it is also necessary to bring food and beverages. You cook yourself or leave the head of the lodge.

LEKURRUKI COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GROUP RANCH

This 7,000 ha ranch is located northeast of Il N 'gwesi and helps secure the elephant migration corridor north. The hundreds of Maasai Mokogodo families also made the tourism bet based on the experiences of Il N 'Gwesi and Namuniak. The wildlife is relatively difficult to observe on the reserve, but walking in a wide variety of landscapes and tormented landscapes will allow you to discover a remarkable flora and dozens of bird species.

■ TASSIA LODGE

☎ +254 790 486 298
<http://tassiasafaris.com>
tassiasafaris@gmail.com

About US\$590 per person in all inclusive fixed rate formula (cheaper rates depending on the number of people). To US\$60 add admission fee in the reserve. Located on the Lekurruki reserve, this community-run eco-lodge, managed by Anikia Henley and Martin Wheeler, which carries Kenya high in their hearts, is built on a rocky promontory on the edge of cliff, offering a sumptuous landscape on the surrounding hills frequented by elephants. Beautifully integrated into the landscape thanks to the exclusive use of wood and stone, the lodge can accommodate about ten guests in its six beautifully decorated rooms. Everything is done to preserve the environment (source water, solar panels...) and only natural materials used to build the lodge. So the pool was directly excavated in the rock. Many activities are organized by Maasais, especially foot safaris in the vicinity. Your guide will make you discover the countless riches of this fascinating region. One of Africa's best kept secrets.

NTRAIN NDARE FOREST



This reserve, located just south of Lewa, was created to safeguard the last dense forest area covering the northern highlands of Mount Kenya. Many animals live in this forest: buffalo, boars, elands, guibs, reduncases, colobes, leopards and even a few lions. The forest houses beautiful waterfalls. A suspension bridge makes it possible to make a beautiful stroll over the canopy. Magic.

■ NGARENDARE FOREST TRUST

☎ +254 722 886 456 / +254 700 412 532
www.ngarendare.org – info@ngarendare.org
 This trust brings together all of Kenya's environmental actors and funders, driven by the desire to preserve and plant trees in the country's most pristine forest, including its cedars that would appear to be out of North Africa. Through the trust, there is an opportunity to practice various activities: Canyoning, hiking, climbing, bird watching... Do not miss the ride on the suspended bridge above the canopy. A magical moment. Learn more about the status of the trails before. According to the rains, they may be impassable, especially in April and May.

BORANA RANCH

This ranch is located west of Lewa. It is accessed by a difficult track that leaves the Nanyuki-Isiolo road at the village of Timau. It is not a Community reserve but a private ranch operating on the same principle as Lewa, that is, the population is closely associated with environmental protection.

The landscapes are just as sumptuous as in Lewa, but the animals are smaller and therefore more difficult to observe. However, the reservation is very pleasant to visit.

■ BORANA LODGE

Laikipia
 ☎ +254 727 735 578
www.borana.co.ke
bookings@borana.co.ke

In full-board, and depending on the season, stay from US\$605 per night and per person (on the basis of double occupation). Activities included (safaris, walk with guide,...).

Very nice private lodge located in the Borana ranch. Very successful local architecture, " ethnic" decoration, refined kitchen, comfortable rooms, luxurious bathrooms and masseuse available! Everything in a beautiful setting. Having a drink in the evening under the small veranda of your cottage is already a rather pleasant experience. But many other activities are offered, including foot or horse safaris and fishing trips on the slopes of Mount Kenya.

■ LOISABA CONSERVANCY

☎ +254 730 127 000

www.loisaba.com – info@elewana.com

Reservations and rates by email. Absolutely all inclusive: full-board, beers, wines, outings with horse or camel, safaris of day and night. Possibility also of camping.

Loisaba Lodge is a style lodge. It is situated in height and offers a magnificent view of the savannah. The hotel is made up of twelve luxury tents, an overflowing swimming pool with breathtaking views of the surrounding area and a spa. On the program, safaris, quad, rafting, helicopter, nocturnal safaris, fishing, horse riding. For the lucky ones, *Stargoes* are the ultimate of the African dream: Roller beds are deployed on a wooden platform overlooking the landscape. The Milky Way offers you... one night in the beautiful star, which will count more than one. You will not be disappointed with this memorable experience. It is also one of the best places in Kenya to watch the lycaon (*wild dog*).

SAMBURU, BUFFALO SPRINGS & SHABA NATIONAL RESERVES



Imposing, wild, savannah savannah with sight, unusual vegetation, light hills, sparkling accacias, lions and giraffes in fison... For many, these are the most beautiful reserves in Kenya and Africa. Samburu, Buffalo Springs, and nearby Shaba are a kind of compromise

between Maasai Mara for the richness of their wildlife and the West Tsavo for the variety and beauty of their landscapes.

► **Samburu** (who takes its name from the region's main ethnic group) and **Buffalo Springs** (which holds its own mineral source) is actually a territory managed by separate jurisdictions. They extend to 239 km² on both sides of the Ewaso Ngiro (the "brown river") that can only be crossed in two points, one to the east outside the reserve (before Archer Post), the other to the west near the Samburus lodges and serenais. The southern and northern shores of the river, where a few large crocodiles are preoccupied, are covered with an exuberant forest of acacias and beautiful palms. As soon as you walk away from the Ewaso Ngiro, you find yourself in the middle of a beautiful hilly landscape, strewn with hills and dominated north of Samburu by impressive mountains. The vegetation consists of a dry and sparse bush (except at the peak of the rainy season) that facilitates animal observation. They are all there without exception. You will see Grévy zebras (recognizable to their mane and fine stripes), cross-linked giraffes and beautiful beige oryx. Buffalo Springs is slightly flatter and arider than Samburu, but both reserves are as beautiful as the other.

► **Still along the Ewaso Ngiro**, but on the other side of the Isiolo-Marsabit road is the beautiful and uninhabited **Shaba reserve**, which takes its name from Mount Shaba (1,525 m), an extinct volcano dominating the arid savannah around.



Charmed by this fabulous site, Joy Adamson settled here in the late 1970 s to study the reintroduction of leopards in their natural surroundings. The landscapes are made up of large arid areas and numerous volcanic hills, but Shaba enjoys the presence of several sources that give rise to green greenery. These marshes attract a wildlife similar to that of Samburu and almost as large. However, it is more difficult to uncover it. The Bodech Mountains north and Shaba (which gave its name to the reserve) to the south are a spectacular backdrop. This reservation really deserves a visit to its landscapes and because it is much less frequented than Samburu.

Transport

How to get there and leave

The road to Samburu is impeccable. Take a day to get there with a stop in Nanyuki from Nairobi. If you do not have your own vehicle, buses and matatus travel several times a day (via Nayuki and Isiolo), and can deposit you to Archers Post. If you have a reservation in a lodge on the reserve, we will pick you up at the entrance.

■ SAFARILINK

☎ +254 206 690 000

☎ +254 730 888 000

www.flysafarilink.com

res@flysafarilink.com

By far the safest and most reliable airline in the country. It has a modern fleet and a friendly and professional team. Finally, it offers a range of destinations far wider than any other airline and additional connections between strategic cities. You must arrive 60 minutes prior to departure and the weight limit of checked baggage is 15 kg.

■ SAMBURU AIRPORT

The small aerodrome in Samburu can be very practical, if you can afford it, to avoid the 5-6 hours of road that Nairobi needs here. There are flights from Air Kenya or Safarilink, from and to Nairobi, Nanyuki or from Maasai Mara. The lodge where you will stay will transfer (*the game drives* inside the park are provided by their own drivers/guides in 4 x 4).

Orientation

The three reserves are located 350 km from Nairobi. The road to Isiolo and beyond is very good. For Buffalo Springs, two entries are possible: Ngaremara Gate (south of the reserve) is the fastest access since Isiolo, Chokaa Gate (or Buffalo Gate) is located a little further, a few kilometers before Archer's Post. If you want to

enter Samburu directly, you must go to Archer's Post, then go to the left to reach the door of the same name. There is also a door to the other end of the park, the West Gate. A small, unattended runway joins Wamba's Bourgade. It is a practical solution if you plan to take the beautiful route that connects Samburu, Maralal and Lake Baringo.

Sleeping

Correct and inexpensive

Camper in Samburu offers a close contact with nature in a beautiful setting. Campsites are located on the north shore of the Ewaso Ngiro, close to Samburu Lodge and the bridge to cross the river. You plant your tent by the water, in the shadow of the great acacias; count around 800 or 1,000 Ksh per night per person. No shower but toilets (rather rudimentary). There are a lot of people in the high season. It may be possible to find an arrangement with the nearby private camp, managed by Gametrackers, to access their two showers. There must be a car mandatory, as it is strictly forbidden to walk in the park.

There are other sites more west (towards Intrepids), theoretically reserved for safari companies, but where one can spend one night. Attention: camping in this wilderness is not entirely safe. You must be careful, not approach rivers without paying attention to crocodiles, close tents and not leave food there. Nature dominates everything, and we must be aware of it at every moment.

► **On the Buffalo Springs side** there are several campsites right after Ngaremara Gate. Unfortunately, security leaves a little to be desired. It may be wise to rent the services of a guard to have an eye on your business during your absence. The best way to do this would be to install the Samburu side, especially as the frame is much more pleasant.

■ LIONS CAVE CAMP

Archers Post

☎ +254 798 698 660

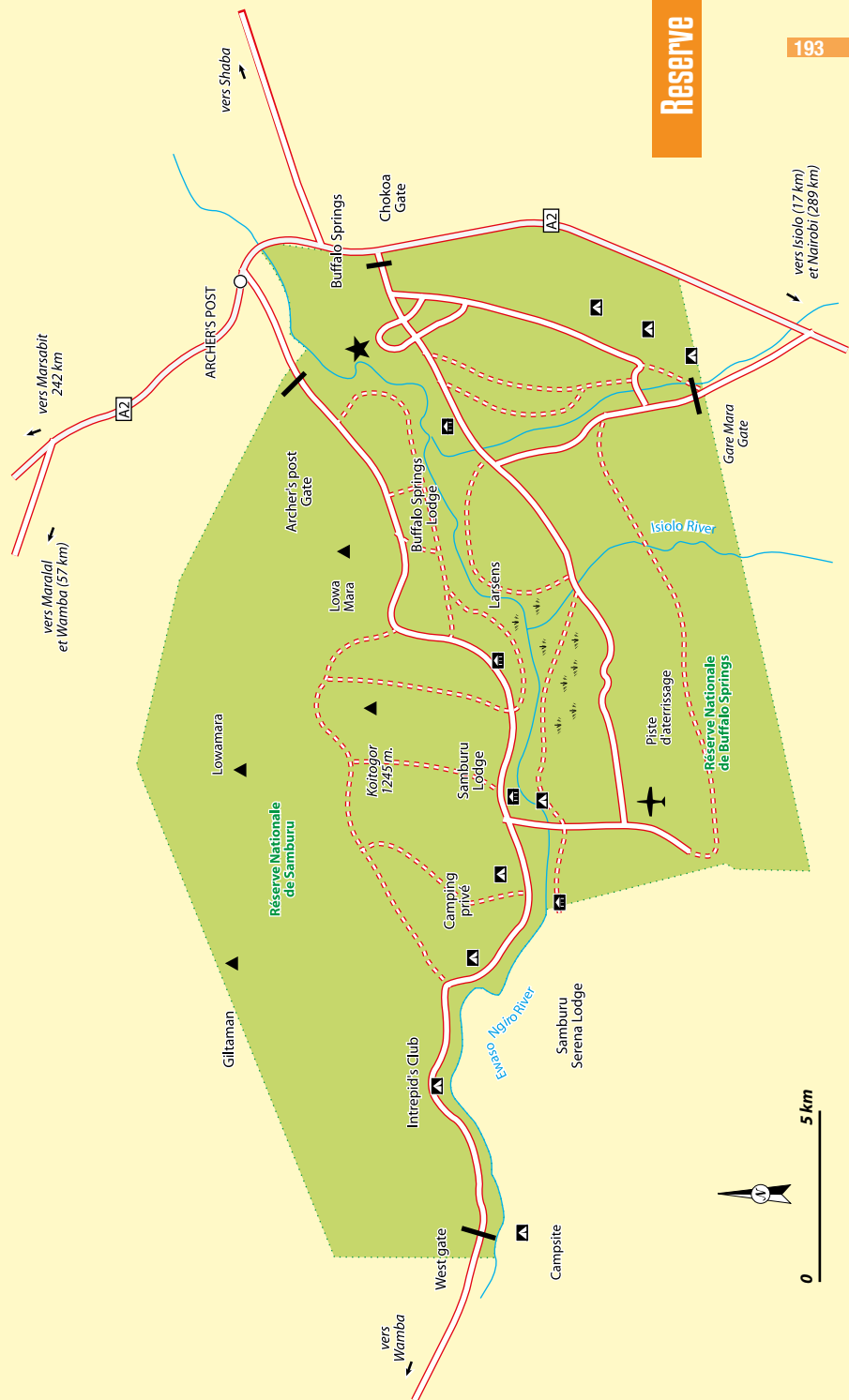
☎ +254 721 938 409

daniel.letoiye@gmail.com

About 1.8 km from the road from the road.

Rates and reservations by email.

Campground overlooking a canyon and the Ewaso Nyiro River in the middle of the bush and acacias. Forget the shadow, but the nights are relatively cool. Tents available for rent. The campsite has a bar-stayed under a very pleasant straw. Possible meals on order. An option for those who cannot afford to stay inside the Samburu reserve. On condition that you have his vehicle.



5 km

0

Comfort or charm

■ LION KING BUSH CAMP

Samburu National Reserve

☎ +254 710 350 782 / +254 711 227 626

www.lionkingsafari.com

lionkingbushcamp@gmail.com

US\$110 per person and by night in full-board.

Nahim, the manager, has lived for 27 years on Samburu lands. His canvas camp offers five tents arranged along the river. This is not the great luxury, but it is an affordable and more authentic option among the luxury lodges of the reserve. Each tent has a comfortable bed and an outdoor shower. You will be in communion with nature, and you may well hear animals the night around your tent, here more than in the other camps, since the human presence is limited. This small structure can only accommodate 12 people maximum, but Nahim never wants to be complete, moreover he prefers to settle for one reservation at a time. As much as you'll probably be alone and... it's a privilege. Nahim will do everything to make you discover Samburu differently. "It's not just animals," he says forcefully. When you come here, you will surely have the opportunity to see something other than what everyone looks at. Nahim also organizes dromadaire treks and safaris in the Far North (notably Lake Turkana).

■ SARARA CAMP

NAMUNYAK WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY TRUST

☎ +254 20 600 457 / +254 723580330

www.bush-and-beyond.com

info@bush-and-beyond.com

Another ecodge located north on the Namunyak Reserve. Managed by the Samburu community, this luxury canvas camp is located in a totally wild area. The tents are beautifully decorated and the main buildings are remarkably simple. Sitting on the edge of the swimming pool with the rock, you will be fooled by the birds' gazouillages and the bruises of the surrounding savanna, before going to adventure in the hills, accompanied by a Samburu warrior (as you see, the devastation is guaranteed). Observation of leopards, high plane of the normally very timid koudor antler... But also elephants, buffers, giraffes, impalas and phacochers. The camp is designed to be rented in its entirety.

Luxury

■ ASHNIL SAMBURU CAMP

Buffalo Springs National Reserve

☎ +254 203 566 970 / +254 717 612 499

www.ashnilhotels.com

info@ashnilhotels.com

12 km from the Ngare Mara Gate.

From US\$500 per night and per person in full-board, depending on the season, with plane tickets included (return since the airport Wilson of Nairobi). Admission in the reserve not included. 30 deluxe tents, 18 doubles, 9 with twin beds and 3 triple beds. Very comfortable, they offer a very nice view of the River Ewaso Nyiro and the surrounding landscape. They are all spacious and consist of a dressing room, a living area, a luggage racer and a private bathroom close to nature. Safaris take place in 4 x 4, with an experienced guide. Conferences on wildlife conservation and culture are regularly proposed. A beautiful site and pleasant infrastructure, as well as a good restaurant.

■ ELEPHANT BEDROOM CAMP

Samburu National Reserve

☎ +254 704 418 651 / +254 702 692 648

www.atua-enkop.com

reservations@atua-enkop.com

Three days and two nights, between US\$770 and US\$1,260 per person, in "all inclusive" (including the range drives, the transfer from Nairobi by the road, the entrance of the reserve), depending on the season, and for two people (safari Mini Van). Between US\$625 and US\$870 per person on a basis of 4.

Ideally located in the shadows of Doum palm trees and the river Ewaso Nyiro, Elephant Niagara Camp is located in the heart of the spectacular Samburu reserve. The spacious and luxurious safari tents offer all modern comforts in an African style. There is even a whirlpool on each of the terraces facing the river! There is a lounge area and dining area. Elephants, zebras of Grévy, giraffes, monkeys, gazelles are regular visitors to the camp... Luxury with simplicity, in a wild environment within reach. Joseph, the manager of the site for more than ten years, very friendly, will do everything to make your stay as pleasant as possible.

■ LARSSENS CAMP

Samburu National Reserve

☎ +254 720 626 366

www.wildernesslodges.co.ke

info@wildernesslodges.co.ke

Reservations and rates by email.

Beautiful canvas camp located along the river, in the middle of a forest of acacias. Despite remarkable comfort, the camp remains simple, giving it a certain charm. Nice and refined tents. Furthermore, the kitchen is excellent.

■ SABACHE ECO CAMP

Samburu National Reserve

O'Lolokwe ☎ +254 726 991 597

sabachecamp.com

info@sabachecamp.com

Rates and reservations by email. Possibility of camping.

This camp enjoys an exceptional setting at the foot of the sacred mountain of Samburu, Mount O 'Lolokwe. Eight luxury safari tents, equipped with natural materials, in an African style, without chicks, with solar electricity and a bathroom with hot water. Each tent has a small terrace with a breathtaking view of the savannah. The Elephant Walk restaurant, The Elephant Walk, offers high-quality cuisine featuring traditional African, Mediterranean, Indian dishes made from exclusively local products. Meals can be served in the beautiful star around a campfire, or for more privacy on your tent's terrace. Sabache is part of these community ecoms whose exploitation and profits are entirely dedicated to the local community. One example is sustainable eco-tourism. A network of trails around the camp, and in the surrounding mountains, will make the hikers happy. Walks are also possible on the back of dromadaire.

■ **SAMBURU INTREPID**

Samburu National Reserve

☎ +254 713 136 482

www.heritage-eastafrika.com

SIC.Reception@heritagehotels.co.ke

Tents of luxury from US\$570 per night and for 2 people, depending on the season and in full-board. Offers and online bookings.

Luxury tent camp on the river (with air conditioning and all the amenities worthy of a large lodge), which mainly hosts an American clientele. Quite original decor and architecture (we love or not). For the rest, nothing to say, impeccable service, impeccable comfort, good cuisine, breathtaking environment.

■ **SAMBURU SIMBA LODGE**

Samburu National Reserve

☎ +254 722 603 303 / +254 722 788 830

www.marasimba.com

sales@simbalodges.com

Count in full-board, and depending on the season, from US\$245 to US\$495 for a single room and from US\$295 to US\$575 for a double room.

It is perhaps the most charming lodge of Samburu (which lies exactly on the edge of Samburu and Buffalo Springs). With a ventilated wood architecture, imitating the local architecture, with a huge shaded terrace that dominates a crocodile and hippos mare, with swimming pools and nicely decorated rooms that face a breathtaking landscape of savannah strewn with accacias, staying there is already a spectacle in itself, before even starting the safari. The rooms have a balcony in front of this savannah of Buffalo Springs, above the Nyiro River, and you can shower by wafting giraffes. The buffet, with Kenyan and Indian dishes, is excellent and the staff is in small care. A lodge with really much stamp.

■ **SAROVA SHABA RANGE LODGE**

Samburu National Reserve

☎ +254 709 111 000

☎ +254 728 603 590

www.sarovahotels.com/shabalodge/

sarova.shaba@sarovahotels.com

From 270 to 540 \$ depending on the type of accommodation, full board for 2 persons.

This unique lodge of the Shaba park offers by far the most affordable. It has a lovely architecture and rather standard rooms. It is beautifully located in an oasis in the heart of the semi-desert of Shaba. Made entirely of wood and stone, the lodge stretches along the river in the heart of an impressive lush. The large dining room is perched 10 meters above the ground, in a large building on stilts overlooking the river on one side and the pool on the other side. Many fountains and waterfalls spread throughout the gardens and buildings give it a calm, serene and fresh aspect. But when the lodge is full, it is a bit noisy. The rooms are comfortable, well decorated and spacious. The cuisine is good and the service is impeccable. Nice swimming pool.

■ **SARUNI SAMBURU**

Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy

☎ +254 735 950 903

☎ +254 202 180 497

www.sarunisamburu.com

reservations@saruni.com

From US\$460 per night and per person in low season. Full-board with drink, a massage, transfers, meal in the bush included and more still.

The Kalama Conservation reserve is located in an area of 95 000 hectares in Samburu land, in the west of Archer's post. Kalama, centred around a strategic conservation zone of 3 150 hectares, represents an essential migration corridor between the northern and southern conservation areas of this spectacular Kenya region. Large elephant herds cross Kalama in their migration routes between the different conservation parks. In Saruni Samburu, the guides and dogs are people of the vintage. They belong to the community of Kalama and know perfectly well the land and animals, weather and roads, as well as natural elements. Being safari with a professional guide Samburu means you will not meet more animals, but you will understand their way of life with your own eyes. A unique experience where the feeling of being alone face-to-face with an elephant or wildebeests brings you back to the simple values of life. Often travellers keep contact with the guides because true friendship can arise. For the lodge, this is THE MUST of the region.

Sightseeing

The tracks are pretty good and you can move on both reserves with a classic car except during rainy season. Signage is not very good (only the lodges are listed regularly), but it's not really embarrassing because you're easy to benchmark. The best way to visit these reserves is to be led by his instinct: whatever your itinerary, you will not be disappointed. However, the leopards are often vient in the large trees bordering the river, while, a few hundred meters away, lions rest in the shade of the thickets (especially on the side of Samburu). When we move away from the river, on the Buffalo Springs side, we have a chance to see cheetahs. Those seeking tranquility will venture to the north of Samburu, bypassing for example Mount Koitogor. Finally, in the eastern part of Buffalo Springs are the sources that gave their name to the reserve. You can get off your vehicle to cool off in one of them or picnic on the edge of the water.

■ CENTRE CULTUREL SAMBURU



With a few meters only of the park entrance, on your left. Admission: 1,000 Ksh per person. It is a samburu village that has decided to accept within the small community of people from outside. You are greeted with traditional dances, you can visit within a traditional habitat, you show you how to fire with two wooden chopsticks, the work of the blacksmith... For some, the place lacks a little authenticity. It is, however, a real samburu village where people live permanently, with the real concern to preserve ancestral traditions. It is true that there is a little push for consumption (we have to support this, buy it...), but this formula makes it possible to provide a few funds to the whole community, particularly to finance children's education. Photographers will be delighted to learn that within this village they have the right to take as many photos as they wish. And there's what to do...

NORTH EXPEDITION

Beyond Samburu, it's the Far North. After Archer's Post, you enter a huge desert area and quite inhospitable. The expedition to the eastern shore of Lake Turkana can be an extraordinary experience, through the almost virgin bush of modernity. The security conditions up to Marsabit have improved considerably and the new paved road, which climbs to Ethiopia, makes it possible to move under good conditions. But if it is easy to reach Marsabit by public transport, the matatus towards Lake Turkana is rarer. The best way to explore this region is to use an agency, and a minimum to leave with a 4 x 4 and a driver. The oldest (since 1981!) to organize this wonderful adventure is Gametrackers, which offers several more or less long circuits at reasonable prices. The most sumptuous route, but also the most difficult, makes a loop through Isiolo, Marsabit, Chalbi Desert, Lake Turkana, Maralal, Isiolo (or Baringo): This route is simply fabulous, and it's the Adventure with a big A. However, the fastest and safest route, by car, now takes a very good road in remade land completely (the C 77), which allows to reach Loiyangalani, from Laisamis on the road to Marsabit, and through Ngurunit. The other option is to take a plane for Lodwar, and then join Eliye to explore the west bank.

MERILLA

You can stop in the village of Merille, on the pretext of drinking something at the only "bar" located on the central square. You're in a Rendille community and people here are already

wondering what you can do so far from home... Needless to say that you absolutely don't have to photograph people without asking them for permission. For buildings. Often, if you want to take pictures, people will ask you for money. Their extreme destitution is already sufficient reason to propose a few shillings in exchange for clichés, but please do not cause any overflow...

MARSABIT

Located along the A2 road, approximately 275 km north of Isiolo, the city and Mount Marsabit are identified north by the Chalbi Desert and the south by Kaisut. It is therefore expected to discover a dusty and deserted city at the foot of a peeled mountain, but, surprise, it enters a lively agglomeration in the middle of a mountainous area covered by a tropical forest. In fact, Marsabit enjoys an exceptional microclimate.

The warm air of neighboring deserts rises on its mountainous slopes and refreshes with altitude forming rain clouds. As a result, it rains almost daily on Mount Marsabit, when it falls only a few drops of water, once every two years, in the surrounding area. This permanent presence of water attracts all nomadic tribes from the region, which come to graze their herds before returning to the desert road.

Marsabit is therefore a city where all ethnic groups in northern Kenya and Ethiopia cross. In animated streets or in the bestial market you will notice Borans, Gabbras and Rendilles, covered with jewelry and striking hairstyles.

Transport

► **Gas stations.** You will find them easily because they are the main point of interest of the city... One could be considered the center of Marsabit. The other, on your right by entering, on the A 2 road. Needless to say, to continue your road further north, you absolutely need to go full. It is even strongly recommended to fill one or two gas jerricans in extra gas.

How to get there and leave

Leaving Marsabit, about 7 km away, shortly after the landing strip, a path joins the edges of another crater with a dense vegetation. On the trail that leads to the splendid view of the Gof Redo, you may see stone cutters for building houses. Bring some water with you, it's likely they'll ask you. The road now covers the aridest landscapes of Kenya. And it's surprising to see how much the desert can take different appearances... As you go through infinite stretches of black volcanic stones, sand, or land as tired as inculcated... It's more surprising to see that men have elected in such an inhospitable territory.

Practical

Money

You will have no difficulty finding an ATM, banks and petrol stations are certainly what has developed most in recent years, including in the most remote corners.

Sleeping

■ CHICO HOTEL

Post Office Road

☎ +254 692 102 846 / +254 706 153 827

www.chichohotel.com

info@chichohotel.com

About US\$20 for a person, with the breakfast.

Small single hotel with basic rooms, with bathroom, hot water, net, TV and wifi. A Marsabit, hard to find better.

■ MARSABIT LODGE

☎ +254 722 929 245

The lodge is only 2 km from the entrance "Ahmed".

About US\$80 for a person and US\$111 for two, with the breakfast (by far the best fixed rate formula so much Marsabit offers few places where to be restored...).

Venerable lodge all wood on the shores of Gof Sokorke Dika. A little old with its furniture from the 1970 s, but the frame is superb. The comfortable rooms dominate the banks of the lake where many animals come from. Unfortunately, the absence of visitors not only

adds to the tristounet aspect of the site but leads to temporary closures at certain times of the year. Nevertheless, it is one of the few housing opportunities in the region.

Sightseeing

Before arriving at Marsabit, just 10 km from the city, you will see on your right a place called Chalka Well. You will discover what some call "singing wells". It's the very fascinating spectacle of men forming a chain and passing from the buckets of water from the bottom of a hole to the surface where dromadaires in rank of onions are waiting to be watered. The buckets, made of skin, have moved from hand to hand with astonishing speed and dexterity, all at the infernal rhythm that these men are required in their songs and under the more or less benevolent supervision of the "well of the well". Unique.

■ MARCHÉ

The market can make up – rigour – the second point of interest in the city (the first being gas stations). But we're quick to turn the tower.

MARSABIT NATIONAL PARK

The park covers the upper mountain area (about 20 km ²), while the Marsabit National Reserve extends into a much larger area (almost 2,000 km ²). The park consists of a dense forest and three small volcanic lakes (called *goats*). This green oasis in the middle of the desert naturally houses a rich fauna (great koudous, buffalo, leopard, caracals, giraffes, zebras, lions and elephants) but difficult to observe. This little disadvantage, added to the park isolation, not to mention the disastrous reputation that some guides can make to the region, explains its very low attendance. It's a shame because the site is absolutely superb. Most of the time, the visitor feels like he has the park for himself, making the visit particularly pleasant. The park itself is small and we walk it in a day. The ideal route is to walk through the three crater lakes. These three enchanting sites, surrounded by forests, offer marvelous views of the desert and host a large part of wildlife and a multitude of bird species. The largest lake, Gof Bongole (the third from the door), is the best place to watch animals because the vegetation is less dense there. But the most admirable of all three is the famous Paradise Lake (which bears its name well). The stunning view of Lake Paradise (borana "Socreti Diko", which means great lake) from the top of the skater's perfectly drawn edges is a unique spectacle and the park's essential interest. Do not hesitate to stop at the lodge terrace for a drink while admiring the beauty of the lake (the "Socreti Dudo", the small lake, in borana... Original).

Transport

How to get there and leave

Two doors give access to the park and Paradise Lake. The first, Karare Gate, is located on the road of Isiolo, which leads you to Marsabit, on your right, less than 20 m from the city. Find out about *rangers* if the trail to Lake Paradise (8 km) is feasible or not. You can then reach Marsabit through the park. The second is called Ahmed, the name of an elephant whose spectacular defenses are exposed to the Nairobi National Museum. You can see some photos of the specimen in the lodge. At Ahmed Gate, you are 11 miles from Lake Paradise.

Practical

■ BUREAU DU PARC

☎ +254 692 102 028

kws.go.ke – marsabitnp@kws.go.ke

About US\$30 per day and by adult, and US\$20 by child of less than 18 years.

Sightseeing

The 360 km² national park is located in the Marsabit nature reserve, which is more than 1,500 km². Located near Mount Marsabit, this reserve is a veritable oasis of greenery in the middle of the desert for many birds, mammals and reptiles. Dromadar walking and hiking are the main activities.

CHALBI DESERT

The Chalbi desert, "naked and salty" in Gabbra language, is Kenya's only real desert; It is the warmest and aridest area in the country. It extends between volcanic mountains and is itself made up of old eroded lava flows. It is located in a triangle between Masarbit, North Horr and the eastern shore of Lake Turkana and extends northward to the Ethiopian border. We cross him on the road from Masarbit to North Horr. This bourgado is actually in the desert itself, on its western edge.

It is an extremely harsh environment, an ocean of dunes where only the most resistant species survive there. Its volcanic rock sand is warm and warm and does not contain any oasis. There are two nomadic, pastoral and chamelid tribes: the Rendille and the Gabbra.

As it extends to the shores of Lake Turkana, it is considered the largest permanent desert lake in the world. The rains are very rare in Chalbi, but when they happen, the desert turns into a huge ocean of mud.

NATIONAL PARK PARK



Opened in August 1973, this 1,570 km² park, probably the most isolated in Kenya, was created to protect a rich fauna: hyena, lions, leopards, cheetahs, zebras of Grévy, oryx, small koudous... The site is inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is also here that the largest number of crocodiles in the world is concentrated. Renowned for their impressive size (the largest after the sea crocodiles of Australia), they are grouped in that part of the lake.

But the Intuoi National Park owes its international reputation to its famous Koobi Forums site. In 1968, Richard Leakey found a fossilized skull dating back several million years. Since then, other remains have been discovered there. The park is very difficult to access from North Horr to the point where most visitors come by plane or boat from the Gulf of Ferguson on the other shore.

■ BUREAU DU PARC

www.kws.go.ke

sibiloi@kws.go.ke

About US\$22 per day and by adult, and US\$13 by child of less than 18 years.

LOIYANGALANI

It is the most beautiful of the two shores of the lake, but also the most difficult of access. Loiyangalani is the only bourgado on Turkana. It is reached either by the southern route (Maralal, Baragoi, South Horr) or by the north (Marsabit, North Horr, Chalbi Desert). After endless hours of often rushed tracks, the arrival on the shore of the lake is a moment of intense emotion so much the décor is sumptuous.

According to legend Turkana, everything here originally was only plains covered with green and grease grass. The men had elected them for the beauty of these grasslands. They had access to a magical, inexhaustible water source. It was enough to lift a stone and the water was coming. However, women should never forget to reopen the source once their receptacles are filled. Only here... one day, one of them forgot. And the water flows, flows, turns into abundance on the surrounding grasslands until they cover them entirely... That's why the lake would have this green jade color that characterizes it...

Loiyangalani is a tiny, small town that is very small, composed of a few sheet huts and inhabited by Turkanas and Samburus. However, it has a landing strip, a school, a position and a Catholic mission.

MARSABIT ROUTE TO TURKANA: OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

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A beautiful excursion to take if you are not afraid of the tracks, solitude and certain uncertainties in the desert North of Kenya. For this shipment, with an individual vehicle, take care to make the full gas (plus one or two jerricans) and buy what you sweeten and drink for two or three days (in case you are blocked somewhere on the road...).

► **Leaving Marsabit**, about 7 km away, shortly after the landing strip, a path joins the edges of another crater with a dense vegetation. On the trail that leads to the splendid view of the Gof Redo, you may see stone cutters for building houses. Bring some water with you, it's likely they'll ask you.

The road now covers the aridest landscapes of Kenya. And it's surprising to see how much the desert can take different appearances... As you go through infinite stretches of black volcanic stones, sand, or land as tired as inculcated... It's more surprising to see that men have elected in such an inhospitable territory.

► **The village of Maikona**, which brings together the Borana and Gabbra tribes, is perhaps the best stop to get into contact with these forgotten people from the rest of the world, and for cause! It will be possible for you to see a new type of habitat, which might be the Mongolian yurt if it was not shaped with palm leaves and recovery materials.

► **It is from this village that you will have to make a choice.** Take the trail that runs through the amazing Chalbi desert, which requires an excellent vehicle and is, in any case, highly discouraged during the rainy season (at the risk of staying blocked several days!). The crossing of this immense stretch of sand is an unforgettable experience.

In the northern part of the desert, the extreme heat infiltrated the ground, cracked, parceled in the way of a puzzle... In this totally mineral decor, infinite platitude, you may have the chance to cross a huge caravan

of dromadaired en route to Ethiopia. It is very important to know that on this precise portion of the journey, the deplorable state of the tracks and complete isolation make it necessary to prepare very carefully. Or take the main runway for Kalacha and join the Chalbi desert by its other end.

► **Kalacha** is the only place in Kenya where it is permitted to hunt the black-facing ganga, a bird commonly found on the edge of the roads, whose color allows it to mix with sand. The flesh of this small poultry is very tender and rather popular in these areas. Maybe you can eat it. If you want to interfere a little in the life of Gabbra village, speak to a John Lucas or his wife Myriam (both speak English). Negotiate a price per person (this money will return to the entire community), and see – before – what they offer you in return. 1,000 Ksh per person seems to be a maximum. From Kalacha, to reach the fabulous Chalbi Desert, only 15 to 20 minutes drive. Know you stop in time. Regularly study the terrain by descending from your car. And don't hesitate to let her go on foot. You are advised to go there at the end of the day, when the heat is less overwhelming, and to contemplate one of the most beautiful sunsets of your life.

► **North Horr** is the next step in your progress towards Lake Turkana. You can stop there, especially to take a look at the resolutely modern church built by German fathers. Seen from a certain angle, the mosque is not bad either, but photograph it raises more problems... It's from North Horr that you have to make a choice again. Either Loiyangalani by the C 77 or the trail leading to Siboloy National Park. No known track makes the junction between these two destinations, along the lake. You will need to revisit North Horr.

► **To make it easier**, and to reach Loiyangalani faster, you can now borrow the C 77 from the south (the track has been smoothed), from Laisamis (north of Archer's Post), via Ngurunit and South Horr.

Visits to the El Molo community

An emblematic people in the Turkana region, the El Molo have a way of life that is enlightened by the western world. But their community has adapted to tourism. The small village of El Molo is already prepared to receive curious people to discover lifestyles of another age. The money belongs to the whole community. You can ask all the questions you want, take pictures, visit a hut... You will see part of the "cemetery" on the path that leads to the point of view on the lake. You will then understand why the village has recently had to move. The lake, by the effect of evaporation, is no longer adequately supplied with water by its Ethiopian source. It was partly diverted to irrigate a vast area of arable land in the south of the country. Lake Turkana gradually becomes salinized, and its level falls to the point that at this particular place it has divided into two parts!

North of the city lives (or survives) one of Kenya's smallest tribes: The El Molos. This fishing people, who have lived here for over two thousand years, now has less than a hundred individuals and gradually lose their cultural identity. The arrival of tourists (their number still remains very reasonable...) and, above all, the multiplication of marriages with other ethnic groups (notably with the Turkanas and the Samburus) have profoundly altered the way in which El Molos lives and the customs. The government has even come, to avoid a total disappearance of the tribe, to grant an allowance to any child born from two parents El Molos!

Sleeping

■ PALM SHADE CAMP

☎ +254 726 714 768

www.palmshadesort.co.ke

palmshadecamp@gmail.com

11 bandaged doubles from 6,000 per person Ksh, with breakfast.

Benedict Orbor's well-kept camp offers bandas and hutties to the typical architecture, basic, but in a very nice framework, well located, in the shadows (hence its name) of palm trees. Also possible camping. Impeccable showers and toilets. Filtered drinking water from an underground source. Kitchen and dining room. You will not find better in this range of prices, the possibilities of accommodation are rare on the shores of Lake Turkana. From here you can organize excursions on Lake Turkana, cultural tours and hiking.

Sightseeing

■ MONT KULAL



This mountain, which grows at 2,285 m, is just east of Loiyangalani. It is covered with a forest and can be gray without difficulty within one or two days. Panoramas on the lake are grandiose. The region is very busy (only a few hundred Samburus live on the slopes of Mount

Kulal), it is better to take a guide. Find out at the lodge or campsite. Mount Kulal, especially the city of Gatab, is known for having the best hospital in the region.

The same is true of its hotel reception facilities. Therefore, provide a tent and food.

■ MONT LOKILIP



To penetrate even more in this world of isolation, go to discover the last nomadic peoples of this small arid mountain chain. Turkanas tribes are constantly moving from one point to the other, to grazing their herds where some rare vegetation remains.

They never settle for more than one month and live under makeshift tents. There is water only during the rainy season and it is located exclusively at the top of the mountain. The rest of the year, they have to drive their animals to Lake Turkana.

■ PARC NATIONAL DE SOUTH ISLAND



☎ +254 54 21 223

www.kws.go.ke

jaskipkilely@kws.go.ke

About US\$22 per day and per person, and US\$13 by from 3 to 18 years old child.

This island, located off the town of Loiyangalani, was classified as a national park in 1983. There is little to see, the island being populated only by reptiles (snakes, lizards and monstrous crocodiles) and by a unique species of goat (very) wild. It is also possible to see the glaring hole left by a shell that the English dropped on a village El Molo in retaliation... but the island can be a goal to sail on the waters of the lake.

Shopping

In the main street of Loiyangalani, you will be offered lots of things. Some are sometimes interesting.

► **Ethnic objects.** Weapons, jewelry, dolls or other tools are very interesting because they have been manufactured here for internal and daily use, unlike those sold on the Nairobi

markets for tourists. With regard to prices, negotiate, but not too much, so as not to take advantage of the state of destitution of these populations.

► **"Precious" stones.** It is at Mount Porr, whose pyramid design draws on the horizon, that the Turkana and the El Molos will look for the blue and blue agates. However, the beautiful green stone that you could offer is not the precious tsavorite (or green garat) but a volcanic glass. Glass whose training is natural, but it has no market value! Which does not prevent him from making a nice memory.

► **The fossils.** In the "treasures" series, you will also be offered nile bone bones fossilized. But here it is! Fossilisé does not necessarily mean prehistoric, and the soil components of Turkana allow a very fast fossilization, only 400 years are needed to transform this perch bone into a beautiful black fossil. The object does not lack interest, however, and you can find it yourself during a walk on the shores of the lake.

LAKE TURKANA



To the east, the shores of Lake Turkana are accessed by Loiyangalani. In the west, the lake is accessible in two places. The easiest to reach is the Gulf of Ferguson, located near the small village of Kalokol. Here, the entire population lives in fisheries and several fish processing plants have been built through European funds. Unfortunately, the decline in water levels has severely penalized this industry. Today, this region is almost devastated. Further south, Eliye Springs' site is much more pleasant, it is also

much more difficult to access (4 x 4 mandatory, turn right about 25 km after Lodwar). Sources just provide enough moisture to allow doughnuts to grow, they produce fruits that feed the few Turkana who live here. A place to discover for those looking for the total decoupling, but it is very difficult to find a place to stay.

■ CENTRAL ISLAND

Located in the middle of Lake Turkana, this island is officially part of the Ecofoi National Park on the other shore. It is much easier, however, to go there from the Gulf of Ferguson. The island is 5 km² and consists of three volcanic cones in which small lakes nest. The latter attract many birds (especially pink flames) and are populated by crocodiles. In April and May, the island resembled thousands of small crocos that have just been born. A little like turtle babies, they rush into the water just out of their egg. The safest way to go to the island is to register for a trip proposed by Eliye Springs Resort. Fishermen can possibly deposit you on the island, but check the condition of the barks as the lake is known for its sudden and violent storms.

■ ELIYE SPRINGS RESORT

Kapenguria

☎ +254 703 891 810

☎ +254 738 827 522

www.eliyespringsresort.com

gloroadventure@yahoo.com

Reservations and rates by email. Possible half-board and full-board. For campsite, about US\$12 if you have your own tent and US\$25 if you rent one of them, with a bed.

Africa's Largest Wind Farm

Near Lake Turkana, 550 km north of Nairobi, Africa's largest wind farm was put into service in early summer 2017. With 365 turbines, each with a power of 850 kw, this facility will have a capacity of 310 mwh, which is to provide electricity to 1 million households, it is located right in the Turkana Corridor Wind: Fast air currents from the Indian Ocean blow all year round. According to the Kenyan authorities, this wind farm will thus be the most effective in the world. It now far exceeds that of Morocco, which was before that the largest in Africa with 131 turbines. To ensure that the project can be completed, a twelve-month ornithological study has even been carried out on the area to ensure that the birds do not contact the turbines.

Despite two-digit growth, Africa is a continent where two-thirds of the population still live without electricity. Electrification is therefore a central issue and renewable energies have become one of the preferred solutions to enable isolated populations to provide this first-needed asset. By making this major investment in the installation of the Lake Turkana wind farm, the Kenyan government intends to reduce its dependence on energy, but also to guarantee a clean, constant and low-cost electricity source. Nevertheless, considerable efforts still need to be made to allow all this energy to be distributed to the inhabitant. Despite major projects such as the wind farm in Turkana, a large majority of African rural areas still remain without equipment to receive electricity.

Located on the western shores of Lake Turkana, 65 km from the town of Lodwar, this *resort* is a great success, with *bandas* in the traditional Turkana style, on the lake beach. Double bed, bed and bathroom in all huts, beautifully furnished. We can camp near this one. The site, under the dummies of the lake, is really pleasant. Set your tent well because the wind can be very violent! Restaurant and natural spa. It is advisable to report its arrival at least 48 hours in advance. To do this, take a bus from Nairobi to Kitale, then a bus for Lodwar (Dayah or Eldoret Express). From Lodwar, taxis can take you to Eliye Springs Resort. From Kitale, via Kapenguria-Marich-Lokichar-Lodwar, it takes 8 hours (approximately 350 km). By plane: daily flights from Nairobi and Eldoret to Lodwar, with Fly 540 and Safarilink.

■ LOBOLO CAMP

Eliye

☎ +254 206 000 457 / +254 723 580 330

www.bush-and-beyond.com

info@bush-and-beyond.com

Located on the western shores of Lake Turkana, Lobolo Camp has a lot to offer. Boat trips to the central island, discovery of the lakes of flaming and crocodile craters, cultural visits to the tribe of Lake Turkana... The lodge also offers to explore the forest and the source of Lobolo, and to locate rare birds and species. But also climbing the cliff, the backdrop of the camp, to have a spectacular view of the palm grove. All six safari tents are equipped with bathroom, with shower showers, toilet and washbasin. Each tent offers a beautiful view on the beach, lake, central island and coastline.

SOUTH HORA

Curiously, South Hora turns out to be a pretty little bourgado whose inhabitants obviously take great care. Shaded streets are clean, some houses have been painted tastefully, large flowers of flowers have been planted. From South Hora you can reach Tuam foot. Count between two and three hours walking across the mountain. It is one of the many walks to be made in the region. You can also climb three summits: Mount Nyiro (2,752 m), Mount Porale (1,990 m) and Mount Supuko (2,066 m). A guide is strongly recommended, not that their ascent is particularly complicated, but you need to know a little bit about it... You can access Tuam by road in 2 hours.

■ DESERT ROSE LODGE

☎ +254 701 677 566 / +254 701 677 703

www.desertrosekenya.com

lodge@desertrosekenya.com

Reservations and rates by email.

A completely improbable and relatively difficult place of access, this small lodge is nevertheless an oasis of relaxation and greenery, a haven of peace, a true appeal of nature. Above all, Emma's hospitality makes your stay unforgettable. On the spot: five bedrooms, a small swimming pool, and internet connection for those who would need to revive the outdoor mode... Emma organizes various activities and, among all, its camel outings are very popular.

BARAGOI

Baragoi is nothing but a stage town, not very attractive. Photo sessions must be avoided in the city because the population is not in favor. When you arrive, you may also be asked for this or this. If you disagree, refuse and remain courteous but firm.

On the road between Baragoi and Maralal, don't miss to stop at the World View Point.

Practical

► **Gasoline.** It is possible to buy (expensive) gasoline at General Store. We'll sell it to you in jerrican.

Sleeping

■ KOROS CAMP

☎ +254 722 249 101

About US\$360 for a tent (2 people) without the meals.

This canvas camp, which can accommodate up to 8 people, is the only one in the region. The tents are carefully furnished and have all the necessary comfort, provided you love close contact with nature. Showers are open. We come with his food, we share, we dine with the other guests, and we enjoy the pleasure of being in full bush. You can also have the services of a cook on request. There's even a small swimming pool. Nick and Angie, Kenyans of British origin, lived all their lives in Kenya. They are the happy owners of this enchanting place, they will welcome you warmly and advise you on all the activities to be done in the region. Lake Turkana is at an hour's drive.

MARALAL



Swept by wind and dust, Maralal has an atmosphere of border city, with its large streets lined with verandas in the style of the Far West. For those who come from Turkana, it is the return to "civilization"... For those coming from the south, it is the last place living before the large desert areas of the north (bank, station, gas

The "plastic boys"

The "plastic boys" is like the "fake guides" which, when you arrive in Maralal, will kindly offer you their help to discover the city against a little something. The problem is that if you don't react very quickly, you risk moving around with a real crowd around you. Of one, it quickly becomes tiring, of two, you are good for a real distribution before leaving the city at the race! You can do without their services since Maralal is a small town that is easy to discover by yourself. Unless you really get angry, it'll be difficult for you to get rid of this whole world. So perhaps the best thing is to choose one to whom you will explain that you want to stay "alone" (and it will take care of others) and that you don't necessarily need someone to know what you want to do.

stations and an astonishing number of butchers). This is an important step if you continue to the Nordic No. The city has little interest in itself, but the region is very beautiful and allows some nice walks. Unfortunately, security problems, chronic in the region, prevent economic and tourist development.

Transport

How to get there and leave

► From **Nyahururu**, matatus will take you regularly to Maralal (3 hours drive). Some transports are organized from Isiolo, much less regular ones... to the point where they cannot count (no less than 6 hours drive). From Nairobi, a matatu a day, direct (8 hours of shaolin meditation...). He usually starts early in the morning. But he leaves full, which can cause some impatience...

► **From Maralal to the north in public transport.** For Lake Turkana and the real adventurers, transport vehicles leave Maralal almost every day for Loiyangalani or El Molo. For Wamba, a daily departure, a very variable schedule, 2 hours drive. It is Wamba only that you can find a bus to Isiolo that can stop on the way to Archer's Post, or the other access gates of Samburu National Park or Shaba.) No transportation for Lake Baringo. The only way would be to take a matatu going to Nairobi via Rumuruti to get off at the junction of the runway that leads to Baringo (just after the village of Tangelbei), then praying to find a vehicle... If you are at the junction in the morning, it is very playable.

Practical

Maralal now owns several banks, including KCB and Equity Bank, with ATM. These are the last ones you will see if you plan to go further north. The city also has several gas stations. The BP manager also holds a garage in the

center for possible repairs to your vehicle. It is also possible to replenish, you will find a supermarket on the central square of the departures of *matatus*.

Sleeping

■ NGARI HILL GUESTHOUSE

Ngara Hill

☎ +254 719 362 916

www.ngarihill.com

info@ngarihill.com

From US\$75 for a single room, and US\$105 for a double (breakfast included). Campsite at US\$12 per person or US\$26 with the rental of the tent.

By far the best place to stay in Maralal. Located 3.2 km from the sanctuary of Maralal, the Ngari Hill Guesthouse & Campsite has beautiful rooms and chalets in a very pleasant garden, with terrace or balcony and bathroom, a restaurant and free wi-fi. Secure parking.

■ OL MALO HOUSE & LODGE

Mugie Wildlife Conservancy

☎ +254 206 000 457

☎ +254 072 358 0330

www.bush-and-beyond.com

info@bush-and-beyond.com

This ranch belongs to the Francombe family. There are currently three generations. Large and beautiful lounge - with open fireplaces - surrounded by three double rooms. Separate cottages offer three other double rooms: all very comfortable, with doors and windows, in a décor inspired by the wilderness nature of the region, local flora and the culture of the Samburu people. The lighting, hand made by Samburu women, creates a warm atmosphere and a welcoming atmosphere. A slab path leads to a large open space overlooking a swimming pool with stunning panoramic views. Perfect for outdoor meals! The barbecue corner is a wonderful place to finish the day.



Young cheetah at rest in Marala nature reserve.

■ SAMBURU GUESTHOUSE

☎ +254 725 363 471

From 2,500 Ksh the night with the breakfast. The renovated rooms are to 5,000 Ksh.

Far less charming and less comfortable than the Ngari Hill Guesthouse, this modern guest house in the center of the city nevertheless offers clean and clean rooms with bathroom, even if hot water is not always at the meeting (solar heater). Good Kenyan cuisine (the servings are huge). Good to help, no more.

Sightseeing

■ MARALAL NATIONAL SANCTUARY

Count approximately 3 hours on the basis of Yare Club.

It is no longer, but you can afford a dromadaire walk in what was a stock reserve, now mostly missing. In a hilly landscape, with a few conifer forests, live zebras, impalas, elands, buffets, phacochers, hyenas.

What is a little painful is the guides walking alongside you. You must therefore play tourist, perched, and enjoy the sumptuous landscape of the landscapes at this altitude. For this, and for the meetings you will do with the Samburus of the surrounding villages, it is an experience that deserves to be tried.

■ MARCHÉ AUX TEXTILES

Held mainly by women, the stakes overflow with camel or sheep wool blankets, printed fabrics

with shimmering colors... A feast of eyes that should help you ignore the incessant demands of "plastic boys".

■ THE WORLD VIEW POINT ★

About 20 km from Maralal with a very bad track, count 1 hour 30 to go there. Always follow signs indicating "Malassi Eco-tourism Project". After the village of Porro, it is just 15 minutes away.

Some say this is Kenya's most beautiful view. It is true that it is grandiose. We advise you to leave early in the morning so that the heat shades do not spoil your view. In clear weather, the panorama on the Rift Valley and the Hills is quite stunning.

However, from the moment you have offered such a trip (3 hours return to Maralal anyway), you can also camp and leave in the morning. For example, you can contemplate the ascension of Lesiolo, whose summit allows you to kiss Lake Turkana and Lake Baringo. Take 4 hours walking without real walking. To the feeling, as they say...

MATTHEWS RANGE

This mountain range, which grows over 2,000 m, is covered by a thick forest and contains a few rhinoceros, elephants and lions, as well as a multitude of other animals. The Matthews benefit, like Marsabit, from a microclimate that makes the region particularly pleasant for

hiking. This massif is located north of the small town of Wamba (70 km after Archers Post), in a region cut from the world where many Samburus live. They are usually very sympathetic and will help you find your way. It is very difficult to enter this mountainous region, but you will not regret your efforts. During your ascent of the Matthews, following the river bed, you can swim in the splendid natural pools that formed in the rock.

■ KITICH CAMP MATHEWS FOREST

☎ +254 730 127 000

☎ +255 754 250 630

www.elewanacollection.com

reservations@elewana.com

Reservations and rates by email.

Kitich Camp joined the Elewana group. It is located in a remote valley of the Matthews Mountains, along a river (Ngeng River). Small luxury structure composed of six tents in safari style, offering intimacy. The whole is built in local materials. Possibility to walk on the forest trails, swimming in natural pools, or watching animals (elephants, buffalo, leopards...).

■ SARARA STAR CAMP

Samburu District

☎ +88 216 433 025

www.sararacamp.com

info@sararacamp.com

Reservations and rates by email. Fixed rate formula full-board (alcohols included), with safaris.

Managed by the Samburus themselves, this place is part of what is called a community reserve, which means primarily that the amount requested will return to the whole community (which is consolation). Campers, hikers and nature lovers will be filled.

FROM MARALAL TO BARINGO

This road across the country Pokot is one of the most beautiful in the country. It allows to connect, in the dry season, Baringo and the reserves of Samburu and Shaba. From Maralal, we pass through Kisima and then by Suguta Marmar (very nice fruit and vegetable market on Thursdays). At the intersection of the road leading to Nyahururu (by Rumuruti) and the one leading to Baringo (before reaching the Rift Valley), a fine example of Pokot habitat can be observed. We finally cross Tangelbei, but be careful! Three kilometers later, take the left runway! The right one would take you north, in a small village called Nginyang (from where it is possible – but difficult – to reach Marich Pass or Lokichar on the Lodwar road!). The landscape is of remarkable variety and beauty (especially the panorama on Lake Baringo). This route requires a road vehicle, a good road map and a gas reserve.

WEST OF TURKANA

MARICH PASS

► **Gas station.** The only nearby is located in the village of Sigor, located just under 10 km east.

■ ELGEYO ESCARPMENT ★

This is a very spectacular view of the Kerio valley. It is also the access route to a few waterfalls. Count two good hours from Ortom.

■ MONT SEKKE

Among the different walks you can contemplate, Mount Sekker is in good place. Located a few kilometres north-west of the Marich Pass, it is 3 326 m, but its ascent does not have any special difficulty and the view of the summit is well worth grimpette. You can easily find someone from the corner to serve as a guide. If you wish, you can reach the summit in the day if you are approaching enough by car, but we advise you to take your time and stay a few days in that region.

■ THE MARICH PASS FIELD STUDIES CENTRE

Kapenguria

☎ +44 12 73 810 740

www.gg.rhul.ac.uk/MarichPass

marich.pass@gmail.com

Located a few kilometers after Marich Pass, a little north of the bifurcation for Sigor, along the Wei Wei River.

Reservations and rates by email.

This very nice centre is in principle reserved for groups studying biology, ecology, geology or botany, but also hosts independent travellers who wish to spend one night or even one week in the region. This is almost the only place where you can stay for at night, get information about excursions in the region (des or turkanas guides are available to accompany you) and even buy a small local map with some indications, especially on the surrounding caves (especially in the Cherangany Hills) and play a major role in the imaginary and popular beliefs of the region Pokots.

CHERANGANY HILLS

Located south of Marich Pass, the Cherangany Hills offers an excellent walk for several days. The park is rather unknown, distant as it is the most classic destinations in Kenya. As a result, this place is a real paradise for those who leave the beaten paths to make a buoyancy school, choosing to go to the deep Kenya and its people in all its diversity. Here, it's the Pokots that you will be forced to cross on trails, people who are not accustomed to strangers, therefore, from a first rather reserved.

On the road to Turkwel and beyond, the last petrol station (before Ken Gen or, later, Lodwar) is located in the small village of Ortum, only one kilometer from the main road. Be careful, the direction (on the left) will be indicated by decpits signs.

NASALOT NATIONAL RESERVE

The road leading to the gorge of Turkwel cuts, like a razor, this perfectly flat valley where only thorny and rare acacias survive... and which constitutes the national reserve of Nasolot. It is a beautiful park surrounded by beautiful mountains peeled by the extreme temperatures that flow in the region. It is hard to imagine that animals can survive there. And yet, the people in the neighborhood say, we can meet elephants and a few cats (we can always dream...). Anyway, it's a park that goes through more than it visits. Above all, we will appreciate the unique beauty of its landscapes, without seeking to hunt any beast. In any case, the heat is quickly calm.

■ BUREAU DE LA RÉSERVE

Kapenguria ☎ +254 800 597 000
www.kws.go.ke
customerservice@kws.go.ke

About US\$20 per day and by adult, and US\$15 for children from 3 to 18 years old and students.

TURKWEEL GORGES

Turkwel is above all a community of life, Ken Gen (the equivalent of our EDF), more commonly known as The French Campground, where the approximately 200 people working on a huge dam built in the 1980 s by the French are gathered. It must be possible to spend the night at Ken Gen, where a guesthouse regularly hosts students who come to discover the site. However, there is no telephone number or any means of booking in advance. But in case of distress, one of the spacious pavilions in which French engineers once resided is open. Yeah, just for you. Don't forget to indicate if you want to dine or enjoy your breakfast in the common dining room. The atmosphere in this totally isolated place is strange. A video club, a very open bar with, at both ends, a big TV (soccer and football), two billiards: These are essentially the activities that are proposed to a predominantly male community (a few live here with the family), which have definitively elected home in the midst of a frankly inhospitable territory.

■ BARRAGE

It will be necessary to make you accompany by somebody by the community. Avoid the weekend. The huge dam – 150 metres high – is located about 40 km from Ken Gen through a winding road in the mountains. Magnificent view over the valley, far beyond the reserve of Nasolot. You can see extinction on the horizon of the Vegetation river, bordered by vegetation, which joins Lake Turkana about kilometres north. Around the fragile streams, the néant, the desert with lost sight.



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► **Beyond this limit, by continuing to the north, you enter the country of Turkana.** This people of nomadic pastors adapted perfectly to a hostile environment. However, in order to diversify their livelihoods, the Turkana have recently launched into the fishery, which led them closer to the lake. Through their isolation, they are probably one of the ethnic groups least affected by the modern world.

SOUTH TURKANA NATIONAL RESERVE



This large reserve is located on the right (east) of the road leading to Lodwar. The bifurcation, located about 65 km from Marich Pass, is quite poorly indicated. Then you have a dozen kilometers to go to the entrance. This park, completely away from the tourist circuits, offers very beautiful possibilities of safaris on foot in a rough and dry decor. Accompanied by rangers, you're going in good morning looking for elands, elephants or small koudous. Strong emotions guaranteed.

■ BUREAU DE LA RÉSERVE

☎ +254 206 000 800 / +254 206 002 345
www.kws.go.ke
customers@kws.go.ke

About US\$20 per day and by adult and US\$15 by child of less than 18 years.

The reservation can be visited at any time of the year. Only a few lucky people venture there. Composed of fluvial forests, mountains, cliffs and thorny bushes, it offers fascinating landscapes, traversed north by the Kerio River. No possibility of accommodation inside. The nearest town is Kitale.

LODWAR

Lodwar is a big bustle, lost in the middle of the desert. The city, warm and dusty, is a necessary crossing point on the Turkana road. Unfortunately, this is not a very pleasant step and there is not much, it must be said, to see

in the vicinity. The many small cheap hotels in the city center must be avoided if possible and local mosquitoes will not forget you if you do not have a mosquito net. However, you are given one or two addresses if you have to spend one night there.

Orientation

It is not difficult to locate in the tiny town center of Lodwar. There are some service stations, the post office and a bank, KCB.

Sleeping

■ NAWOITORONG LODGE

☎ +254 704 911 947

☎ +254 720 952 399

At the south exit of the city, away from the main roads. Possibility of camping.

This lodge, built entirely with local materials, is run by a local association of women; It's the largest in Lodwar. The site, on the edge of a small river, is pleasant and refreshing. Accommodation in big bandas. The lodge offers several cultural activities (local cuisine, art exhibition, visiting traditional villages...), to find out how the Turkana live. Good restaurant (local, Indian, international) open from 6 a. m. to 9 p. m.

■ TURKWEL LODGE

☎ +254 712 689 861

About 1,500 per person Ksh with the breakfast. This is probably the best hotel in the city. No charm, but the rooms are relatively clean and equipped with fans and mosquito nets. The hotel also offers some nice cottages. Good restaurant with outdoor space, open from 6 a. m. to 11 p. m.

Knife & fork

The best options to recover in Lodwar remain Turkwel Lodge or the Nawoitorong restaurant.



Monkey Samango, Kakamega National Reserve.

© NYIRAGONGO

WEST



WEST

Western Kenya, apart from northern deserts, is the least visited region in the country. A highly populated, agricultural and fertile region, it consists of green plains and hills. If there are not the greatest wonders of Kenya here, there are still nice visits to it. We approach Equatorial

Africa, which presents an atmosphere other than East Africa. The climate is wetter and here lies the unique equatorial forests of Kenya. They will be seen at Mount Elgon National Park on the border of Uganda, or Kakamega. The shores of the largest lake in Africa, Lake Victoria, will also be explored.

AROUND LAKE VICTORIA

Lake Victoria is the largest tropical lake in the world and the largest lake in Africa with 68,800 km². It has a maximum depth of 80 m and bears the name of the Queen of England, because English John Hanning Speke was the first European to discover it in 1856. He is the source of the White Nile, so sought by the explorers of the nineteenth century. Its shores are now shared between Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, which has the largest portion.

However, Lake Victoria is relatively low tourism. If its shores are not the most picturesque, and if its cities are not particularly attractive, its landscapes are nevertheless among the nicest in western Kenya, with their humid tropical vegetation, gentle hills, the beautiful blue water of the lake and its agricultural cultures.

The lake region is fairly densely populated and "industrialized"; it is an important economic vial, particularly with fishing, which is intensively practiced. This is also causing significant environmental problems. Among these, the introduction of the Nile perch for fishing and the elimination of malaria mosquitoes about sixty years ago resulted in the disappearance of many local species. The lake also brings health problems to the populations living on its shores, malaria and bilharzosis, and a major problem. Bilharzosis is a permanent problem;

this infection caused by a parasite that infiltrates your body, in contact with contaminated freshwater, generates very painful symptoms and can reach the nervous system in the most serious cases. Bathing is therefore discouraged. In any case, it became impossible because of the proliferation of water jacinth, which in a few years had invaded the lake to the point where all other living organisms were choked there. Navigation had become very difficult, fishing was threatened in the short term and malaria could develop. The World Bank has funded an important program for the destruction of jacinth, the results of which are very promising, since over half of the covered surfaces have already been remediated.

The Kenyan coast is particularly beautiful in the south. The mountains rise to form beautiful caps and beautiful berries. The region is mainly surrounded by savannah and is famous for its rice, sugar cane and tea plantations.

Here, far away from the great tourist infrastructure of the coast and the wildlife parks, often disconnected from the reality of the country's men, we will be in the heart of Africa, of its life; we will see its difficulties, but also its civilization and its men. And nature remains there, beautiful and impressive, like everywhere in Kenya.

West Indies

- ▶ **A stay on the island of Mfangano or Rusinga** combines isolation in a beautiful setting with the people of Lake Victoria.
- ▶ **Kakamega's** visit is inevitable because it is unfortunately one of the few and last opportunities to enter a splendid river forest.
- ▶ The **huge Kericho tea plantations** that are the reason for this city. Visit them and wonder the beauty of these hilly regions with deep and deep green.
- ▶ **Its dimensions, the richness of its flora and the diversity of its landscapes make Mount Elgon** one of the most surprising places in Kenya. It also offers some of the most beautiful hiking opportunities in the country.



KISUMU

Formerly known as Port Florence, Kisumu is now the third largest city in the country. At the beginning of the century, the city was a very active port, thanks especially to the arrival of the railway. It remained a lively commercial hub until the dissolution, in 1977, of the East African Community (EAC). Refounded in 1999, the East African community entered into force again with the ratification of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania in 2000, joined by Burundi and Rwanda in 2007. South Sudan was the sixth country to join the EAC in 2016. Kisumu has regained momentum thanks to the renewed cooperation between these six countries, and the expansion of the city continues to be affirmed. What strikes in Kisumu is the importance of the Indo-Pakistan community.

A large number of Indian workers settled here when the construction of the Mombasa-lake Victoria train was completed. They were joined much later by thousands of refugees of Indian origin expelled from Uganda by Amin Dada. Today it is the Chinese who invest the city. The track project, financed by China, which must link Mombasa to Kampala (whose Mombasa-Nairobi serving was inaugurated in June 2017), should strengthen this economic momentum. Although there is not much to see or do, Kisumu deserves a little visit. It is nice to walk around the city center around Oginga Odinga Road, where most shops and hotels are concentrated, not forgetting the market, one of the most extensive and animated in the country. Thanks to excellent connections, the city is a good starting point for all excursions in the west and north of Kenya, as well as in Uganda or Tanzania.

Transport

How to get there and leave

► **Airport.** Several daily flights from and to Nairobi as well as Mombasa, get information from different companies. The safest means of transport. Flights to 40 € from or for Nairobi, with Fly 540 (this company even provides direct connection with Homa Bay).

► **Boat.** The ferry, which once connected Homa Bay in four charming hours, ceased its activity in 2017.

► **Train.** Trains from Nairobi to western Kenya (the original line provided journeys to Kampala) no longer circulate. The construction of a new railway that should link Uganda (in the continuity of the new segment between Mombasa and Nairobi) is planned for the coming years.

► The **road** is still the longest but most economical way to go west. The bus station, and matatus is north of the market on Kenyatta Highway, more or less at the corner of Nairobi Road. Many departures to Nairobi (5 or 6 hours); Nakuru (2 hours 30); Eldoret (2 hours); Kakamega (45 min); Kericho (1 hour 30); and Homa Bay (1 hour 30). Please note that Kitale's direct matches are not so common, you may need to take a correspondence in Kakamega or Eldoret.

■ CROWN BUS SERVICE LIMITED

Kimwa Annex Building
Bank Street ☎ +254 572 023 933
crownbus.co.ke
Daily bus for Nairobi.

■ EASY COACH LTD

Gumbi Road
☎ +254 738 200 317 / +254 733 227 649
www.easycoach.co.ke
Opposite the Jumuiya Hotel.
Several departures per day for Nairobi. About 1,400 Ksh the trip.
Excellent bus company that runs across the western part of the country. Comfortable and comfortable vehicles. Two drivers were running for long journeys.

Practical

Tourism - Culture

■ ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE KISUMU

Lodwar Street
☎ +254 731 642 723 / +254 712 904 928
www.afkenya.or.ke/kisumu/
alliancekisumu@alliancefrnairobi.org
Behind Kisumu Law Courts
French books, teaching, and cultural events.

Money

You will have no difficulty finding banks in Kisumu or even an ATM. The best way to do it is to go to a shopping mall (for example, The West Shopping Mall located on Achieng Oneko Road and open from 9 a. m. to 8 p. m.).

Sleeping

Correct and inexpensive

■ IMPERIAL HOTEL EXPRESS

Oginga Odinga Street
☎ +254 713 555 365 / +254 734 977 377
www.imperialexpress.com
reservations@imperialexpress.com
Single room with 5,900 Ksh and double with 6,900 Ksh (with the breakfast). Catering service only for the breakfast.