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KATO FOREWORD



It gives me great pleasure to introduce the updated edition of the 'Kenya Travel Guide and Manual'. This publication is designed not only to complement existing publications on Kenya, but also to serve as a technical document to help both local and overseas agents to find information quickly on the various products that Kenya has to offer.

As you will come to discover, Kenya is a unique safari destination offering an unrivalled mix of products, all within relatively close proximity of each other. Where else in the world can one land at an international airport and be inside a National Park viewing wildlife within 30 minutes? Where else can one fly from grassy savannahs to a snow-capped mountain to sandy beaches, all under two hours away from each other?

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

To help maximise the visitor experience, we have a well developed network of highly experienced tour operators under the umbrella of the Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO). Formed in 1978, KATO is a non-political private sector organisation consisting of the leading and most experienced tour operators in Kenya. Its main objectives are:

- To provide a forum for Government-licensed tour operators in Kenya through which to address and deal with issues of relevance to their business interests
- To provide a voice for tour operators in dealing with the Government in all areas
- To uphold the good reputation of Kenya as a tourist destination by ensuring that its tour operators maintain the highest standards of service and value

- To give clients and individual clients alike the confidence of knowing that Kenya has a mechanism designed to consider the possible redress of any wrongs which a client may have suffered
- To uphold and improve the business standards and ethics of members by recommending certain standards which the Ministry of Tourism and Information might consider in determining whether to grant or renew the licence of an operator.

Our members offer a wide range of services including, but not limited to, special interest safaris, incentive travel group safaris, camping safaris, safaris by air, individual safaris and Indian Ocean Coast (beaches and fishing) and sporting safaris (golf, mountaineering, athletics, etc).

KATO works closely with other industry stakeholders and the local communities to consolidate and improve the quality of the existing tourist product. Other efforts are geared to diversifying the tourist product and source markets, promoting the destination and forging a partnership with neighbouring countries through the spirit of East African Co-operation.

All KATO members are bound by the rigid rules of the Code of Conduct and we advise all intending visitors to Kenya to arrange their holidays through a KATO member.

Duncan Muriuki
Chairman
Kenya Association of Tour Operators





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Kenya Wildlife Service is a state corporation that conserves and manages wildlife and habitats throughout the country. It oversees the management of 27 terrestrial and marine parks, 34 terrestrial and marine reserves together with four sanctuaries.

Wildlife tourism is a key feature of the KWS parks and reserves. Some of the activities include spectacular game drives, photography and filming. We also offer visitors memorable eco-tourism experiences through diverse activities like hiking, mountaineering, walking safaris, and fishing, cycling in selected parks alongside camping and picnicking.



KWS also offers self-catering accommodation facilities in selected parks as well as exclusive and pristine campsites.

At the coast, our marine parks and reserves offer diverse experiences like snorkelling, dolphin watching, and water sports together with glass-bottomed boat rides that allow visitors to view amazing corals.

KWS is developing diverse tourism activities including horseback safaris, exclusive tree house lodges, night game-drives and boating. World-class lodges and other facilities are being developed in wilderness parks.

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We offer a quality and secure experience, sustainable wildlife populations, and professional service in an ecologically sustainable and friendly environment.

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Julius Kipng'etich
Director
Kenya Wildlife Service



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WELCOME TO MAGICAL KENYA - WHERE THE SUN NEVER SETS ON ADVENTURE

JAMBO NA KARIBU! These are the first words visitors hear everywhere they go. They mean 'hello and welcome' and are never more warmly meant than in the country that is the original home of the safari and the ultimate destination for a world-class holiday.

Sitting astride the equator, halfway down Africa's eastern coast, Kenya is the most accessible country in the region. With 91 international flights arriving in and departing from Nairobi every week, visitors can be enjoying dinner and observing elephants and other wildlife within a few hours of leaving the office.

Kenya offers a world of attractions and opportunities for the discerning visitor – more than any other destination in the world. Visitors can expect to find stunning landscapes, a diversity of culture and myths, sandy beaches, a range of adventure sport activities, opportunities for bird watching and, above all, the chance to observe rare wildlife.

Kenya's cosmopolitan capital, Nairobi, is the only city in the world with a national park attached to it. The city's famous hotels and restaurants offer the perfect start to a memorable vacation. Visitors can try their skill on some of the world's finest golf courses or experience the thrill of a racecourse where the horses may be joined by ostriches, camels or even rally cars.

But it is on the plains, beneath the majestic snow-capped mountains, that you will find Kenya's most memorable entertainment: the great annual migration of the wildebeest. From July to October each year about 2 million wildebeest, accompanied by half a million zebras and thousands of gazelles, move steadily

north from the Serengeti in search of the lush grass and water they need to survive. There they graze until about October, at which point the entire herbivore circus turns around and heads south again. The world's most spectacular wildlife is to be found in Kenya.

After the wonders of a wildlife safari, Kenya's beaches offer the ultimate in relaxation. With 480 kilometres of beaches – 50 per cent of them sheltered by unspoilt coral reef – Kenya is the ideal destination for adventure and sports tourism. Professional diving companies are at hand to show the visitor a veritable paradise beneath the waves.

Kenya's wild assets are accompanied by the warmest of human welcomes. Visitors can experience the vibrancy of Kenya's 42 cultures and become part of an extended national family, sharing ancient musical traditions and tasting the kind of hospitality that only Kenya can offer. Home stays can also be arranged.

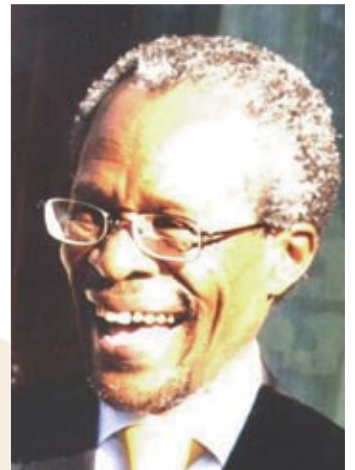
In the Northern Laikipia area, ranches covering hundreds of thousands of acres offer private game viewing with eco-friendly private community lodges catering for only a couple of customers – a 'must' experience for any visitor.

Wherever you go in Kenya, you are delivered right to the heart of action. Welcome to magical Kenya, where the sun never sets on excitement!

Dr Ongong'a Achieng
*Managing Director,
Kenya Tourist Board*



Experience a different safari every day
www.MagicalKenya.com



KENYA: CRADLE OF MANKIND

In his seminal work, 'On the Origin of Species', published in 1859, Charles Darwin expressed his belief that man and the higher apes were in some way related and possibly had a common ancestor.

Unfortunately, Darwin was unable to prove this theory during his lifetime. Nevertheless, the general thrust of his research was in this direction and, after his death, others tried to prove his theory. In the 150 or so years since Darwin published his findings, it is the discoveries and research in Kenya's Rift Valley that have finally allowed his theory to be proved beyond reasonable doubt. For this reason, Kenya can rightly claim to be the 'Cradle of Mankind'.

Of course, discoveries of early man's presence are not confined to Kenya. Examples of archaeological finds have also been located elsewhere in East Africa. These finds are in some way related. But it is through the painstaking research work undertaken around Lake Turkana, in the far north of Kenya, that some of the best examples of mankind's early existence – some dating back 2.5 million years – have been found and examined.

But early man's links with Kenya go further back into ancient history. Recent finds around Lake Turkana indicate that hominids such as *Australopithecus Anamensis* lived in the area as early as 4.1 million years ago. More recent discoveries in the Tugen Hills indicate evidence of hominids dating back 6 million years.

Research suggests that, while mankind has only one ancestor, there may have been as many as three species of hominid living in Kenya. But just one of the three actually evolved into *Homo Sapiens*, in the Rift Valley, and it was here that man first walked on two legs.

DISCOVERIES

At the centre of these discoveries were the British and Kenyan husband-and-wife team Mary and Louis Leakey, who began their meticulous work in the Rift Valley in the 1930s. Mary and Louis, their son Richard and, in turn, his daughter Louise have spent three generations studying man's earliest existence.

Their first major find was the jaw of a pre-human creature called *Proconsul*. It was not until the 1950s that their work really started to make headway when they discovered the fossils of the early primates *Australopithecus Boisei*. Carbon dating has since shown that this particular humanoid was 1.75 million years old.

From 1961-64 the Leakeys and their son Jonathan unearthed fossils of *Homo Habilis*, 'handy man', the oldest known primate with human characteristics. And in 1967 they discovered *Kenyapithecus Africanus*. The Leakeys claimed that *Homo Habilis* had walked upright.

In the late 1970s Mary Leakey found a trail of ancient hominid footprints of two adults and a child, about 3.5 million years old, impressed and preserved in volcanic ash from a site in Tanzania called Laetoli. They belonged to a new hominid species, best represented by the 3.2 million-year-old Lucy skeleton found at Hadar, Ethiopia, by Donald Johanson.

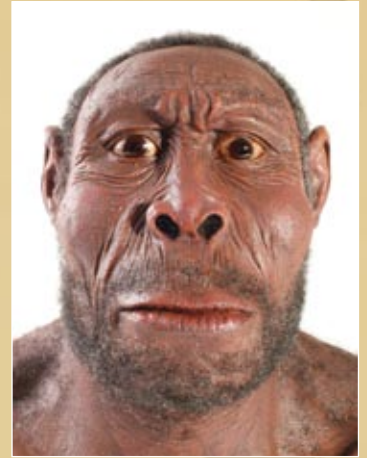
In 1969 son Richard, director of the National Museum of Kenya, reported the discovery of a 1.8 million-year-old modern human skull from Koobi Fora. Three years later he discovered the skull of 1.6 million-year-old *Homo Erectus* and in 1984 he and others discovered an almost complete *Homo Erectus* skeleton. While much remains undiscovered, it is the pioneering work of the Leakeys that has established the link between early and contemporary man.

STONE AGE

Evidence suggests that *Homo Sapiens* finally mastered stone-making techniques and the use of fire around 10,000 BC. Early humans developed a basic language and began to organise communities around hunting and gathering. These hunter-gatherers dug for roots and ate berries, harvested nuts, shoots, eggs, insects and fruits and hunted live animals.

As civilisation evolved, Kenya became a prime migratory route for groups in search of fertile land for food production and grazing. As far back as 2000 BC, evidence indicates that early tribal groups began experimenting with agriculture and rearing cattle. Kenya's highlands and Rift Valley regions are especially rich in this early history of human evolution.

The first migrants to arrive were pastoral nomads from Ethiopia who moved south to Kenya in search of fertile land to graze their flocks. In fact, by 100 AD there may have been 1,400 pastoral communities living in Kenya's Rift Valley. As people migrated throughout the valley during this period, they exchanged and developed cultures that can still be identified in Kenya's tribes today.



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CULTURAL VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF KENYAN LIFE

Kenya is a diverse nation made up of 42 ethnic communities.

The largest of these is the Kikuyu, who come from the central highlands and account for more than 20 per cent of the total population.

Other main tribes are the Luo (from close to Lake Victoria), the Kamba (from Eastern Province), the Kalenjin (pastoralists from the Rift Valley) and the Luhya (from Western Province).

Traditionally, each community has its own culture and language or dialect but in modern times many of these outward differences have disappeared as more and more people have become urbanised or have migrated to Nairobi or Mombasa.

STRONG AFFINITY

Nevertheless, each Kenyan – nominally at least – retains a strong affinity with his or her tribe; although this is less apparent among the more sophisticated and well educated.

Some tribes, notably the Maasai and Samburu, have been less willing to become urbanised and to leave their homelands and traditional way of life and have remained pastoralists or even nomads.

Each community has interacted with others through East Africa's lingua franca, Swahili, and over the past 100 years or so English has also been spoken. Today, it is not uncommon for Kenyans to speak three languages fluently – not only Swahili and English but also their tribal language. Many others can speak a fourth or even fifth local language.

Kenya is not only a nation of communities but also one with a variety of religious affiliations. The predominant religion is Christianity, whose adherents make up about two-thirds of the population. In addition, between 20 and 30 per cent are Muslim. This figure is much higher at the coast. Kenya also has significant numbers of Hindus and Sikhs among its Asian community. In addition, many Kenyans – especially those in rural areas – still hold traditional African beliefs.

Amid this complex patchwork of peoples, it is sometimes hard to define Kenyan culture, although there are similarities that bind everyone together. Kenyans are passionate in their support of national teams – at football, rugby, volleyball and even cricket – and are justly proud of the nation's achievements on the athletics track over the past 40 years.

In any case, Kenya's ethnic make-up only adds to its richness and makes any visit to the country all the more fascinating. It also ensures a wide variety of arts and handicrafts that are peculiar to certain geographical areas or which have a defined tribal root. Today, however, most arts and crafts are geared to the tourist market.

Popular items include sisal baskets, bracelets made of imitation elephant hair, Maasai and Samburu beads, musical instruments such as drums, gold and silver jewellery, soapstone sculptures, wood carvings and tribal masks as well as paintings, prints and sculptures. Popular items of clothing include kangas – wrap-around skirts for women – and highly coloured kikoyos – a type of sarong that is ostensibly for men but seems to be worn by both sexes.



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A LAND OF SPORTS LOVERS WITH PLENTY OF CHALLENGES FOR VISITORS

Kenyans love sport – hence the familiar sight of football being played in the evenings on the edge of every village in the land.

Yet, in terms of international sporting prowess, it is in athletics that Kenya excels – especially running events at distances between 800 metres and the marathon.

In both men's and women's events, Kenya probably leads the world at these distances. In particular, Kenya has a grip on the 3,000 metre steeplechase, in which the nation has repeatedly made a clean sweep of medals at the Olympic Games and IAAF World Championships.

By contrast, the nation's rugby, football, volleyball and cricket teams have enjoyed mixed fortunes in recent years.

PASSIONATE

Kenyans are especially passionate – and highly knowledgeable – about football, not only about the latest events and scores in the domestic league but only in regard to what's happening in the UK's Premiership or similar top-level leagues in Spain or Italy.

The national cricket team, meanwhile, has performed well in one-day internationals – even reaching the semi-final of a recent World Cup. Kenya is a solid performer in terms of African rugby. Its rugby 'sevens' team has done particularly well and the game is now established. Rugby is growing in popularity and is now played outside its home base of Nairobi.

Most visitors are probably unaware of the fluctuating fortunes of Kenya's national teams, but are certainly impressed by its success on the athletics track.

For tourists, however, the real point of interest is those sports and activities in which they can actually be involved.

Climbing/trekking and golf are probably the two most popular sports for visitors. For climbers, Mount Kenya – at 5,199 metres the second-highest peak in Africa – is the big challenge and main attraction. Mount Kenya is 200 km from Nairobi, so it is easy to reach. A number of specialist companies can arrange climbing trips as well as trekking in the foothills of Mount Kenya and the high moorland of nearby Aberdare National Park.

For golf enthusiasts, Kenya has more than 40 courses, most of them dating from colonial times. In and around Nairobi, which is blessed with several fine courses, the climate is just about perfect for the sport, with low humidity and temperatures that rarely exceed 27°C even in summer. There are two 18-hole courses at the coast and two nine-hole courses. Two new 18-hole courses are under construction at Vipingo Ridge. The coast, of course, is also perfect for sailing.

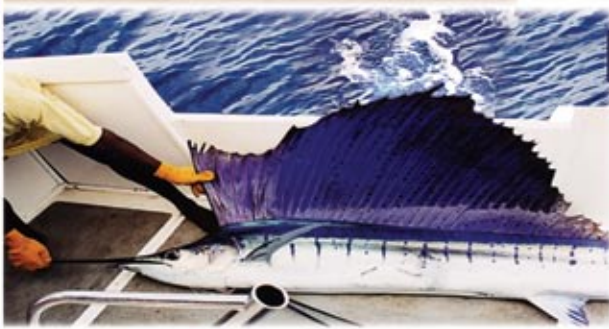


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Kenya has more golf courses than any other African country except South Africa. In fact, Kenya has more than 40 courses, although not all of them are 18 holes.

Apart from two 18-hole and two nine-hole courses at the coast, Kenya golf courses enjoy a year-round climate that could have been made especially for the game.

Golf in Kenya goes back a long way. The Royal Nairobi, for example, has already celebrated its centenary and more are set to follow shortly in the next few years.

HERITAGE

Well-heeled British settlers introduced the Royal & Ancient game to East Africa and built many parkland courses in the image of those that they had left behind at home. Golf is still a game for the affluent. Nevertheless, a new generation of Kenyans are playing golf and competing internationally.

Yet, it is only in recent times that Kenyans have realised what a magnificent golfing heritage that they possess and that visitors from beyond Africa's shores would be interested

in travelling to play the nation's many fine courses.

Golfing tourists are attracted by:

- Uncrowded and mostly well maintained courses
- Comparatively inexpensive green fees and associated playing costs
- A perfect climate during Europe's winter months
- Many excellent courses in and around Nairobi at and over 1,600 metres above sea level.

Probably the best known course is Muthaiga Golf Club, home of the Kenya Open. Founded in 1913, this course is popular with locals at weekends but is comparatively quiet on weekdays. Muthaiga has undergone a major refurbishment that has seen some holes lengthened. Other good courses in the Nairobi area are the Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club and the Royal Nairobi.



The Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club boasts some of Kenya's toughest holes and is best played by those with a recognised handicap. The course also has plenty of water hazards, not to mention some blind greens, a card-wrecking 14th and an island green on the 18th.



At 6,600 metres off the back tees, the Royal Nairobi is also a testing course. Both the clubhouse and the course have been refurbished recently.

A short drive from Nairobi, but certainly no less interesting, are courses such as Karen, Limuru, Thika and Sigona.

The 6,630 metre Karen Golf Club, in the Ngong Hills, is an admirably well-maintained course with a classy connected membership, strong traditions and a pretty strict dress code.

About 40 minutes out of Nairobi, on the Nakuru road, is the Sigona Golf Club. This course is greatly favoured by local players and, thanks to its altitude, enjoys a pleasant climate and a rather splendid clubhouse that overlooks the 18th green. Its par-71, 6,015 metre course is suitable for players of all levels and, due to good rainfall, its fairways are among the best kept in Kenya.

Located a similar distance from Nairobi, the par-71, 6,020 metre Limuru Country Club is 2,330 metres above sea level and, like Sigona, receives more rainfall than most other courses. Its greens and fairways are particularly lush, even during dry periods. This course is a delight to play, but at this altitude players may need a sweater for early morning and evening rounds.

The Great Rift Valley Lodge & Golf Resort overlooking Lake Naivasha is about 2,150 metres above sea level and consists of a par-72, 6,073 metre course with probably the best views in Kenya. This is not the toughest course in the country, but what it lacks in difficulty it more than makes up for by its sheer charm and beauty.

COURSES

Apart from those already mentioned, there are nine-hole and 18-hole courses dotted all around the highland areas above Nairobi. Some are in excellent condition, while others probably need some improvement before it would be worth travelling long distances to play.

On the coast, meanwhile, visitors can expect a tropical atmosphere in terms of climate and playing conditions. There is a choice of two fine courses, Leisure Golf Club and the Nyali Golf Club, with a new course to come at Vipingo.

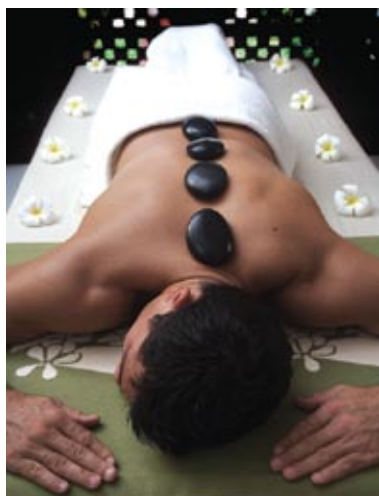
Nyali Golf Club offers a traditional set-up. This course is a fair test for any golfer, while the clubhouse has a well earned reputation for excellent food.

The unforgiving Leisure Golf Club at Ukunda, on Mombasa's south coast, has tight fairways and quality greens and is in good order thanks to new grass-cutting equipment. The 6,084 metre course is open to visitors, who can expect a warm welcome at the convivial clubhouse.

But whatever course or courses visitors decide to play in Kenya, they are bound to be pleasantly surprised by the quality of what's on offer.



GO ON - TREAT YOURSELF TO A SPOT OF PERFECT WELLNESS



As the frenetic pace of today's whirligig lifestyle takes its toll on body and mind, many Kenyan hotels have found the perfect antidote for their seemingly stressed-out clientele – the wellness centre.

This concept is becoming ever more exotic and self-indulgent. With demand growing all the time for New Age therapies and wholly natural treatments, many of Kenya's health clubs have evolved into fully fledged wellness centres.

In fact, this trend has expanded so rapidly that, nowadays, there are few major coast hotels that cannot boast

a newly constructed, internationally branded and dedicated spa area where guests can retreat into a special world of tranquillity and general well-being. Perhaps it is the warmth of the sun and the open-air lifestyle of the coast that makes these centres so appealing.

In 2007, for example, the coast properties of two of Kenya's biggest hotel groups, the Serena and Sarova, launched new spas at Serena Hotel & Spa and Sarova Whitesands. This is not to say that wellness centres have not opened elsewhere – in Nairobi, for instance, or among the camps and lodges – but development has certainly been most intense at the coast.

The Serena now has its Maisha Mind, Body & Spirit Spa, which is said to offer guests “a sanctuary of calm that draws on the beauty of nature and the elation of evocative surroundings to create the perfect island of holistic nurturing”.

The Maisha Spa offers a wide range of treatments, each of which can be specifically tailored to the needs of guests. Some use the Elemis range of scientific skin therapy treatments; others are handmade by Serena's therapy team using local fruits, flowers and oils. Treatments can also be made up specially for guests to take away.

Meanwhile, the Sarova Whitesands has its new Tulia Spa, offering a haven of relaxation and rejuvenation. The Spa offers Mombasa residents and tourists alike the chance to wind down in luxurious and peaceful surroundings.

Kalili Baharini Resort & Spa, further up the coast in Malindi, has an equally impressive array of facilities for pampering its guests – even including its own range of Kilili cosmetics.

GOODNESS

On the south coast, the Leopard Beach Resort has added the words ‘& Spa’ to its title since it opened its Uzuri Spa. Meaning ‘goodness’ in Swahili, this new facility is set in no less than six acres of forest, creating what the hotel describes as “a sanctuary for those seeking tranquillity and the rejuvenation of mind, body and soul”.

Next door, the Diani Reef Resort & Spa offers the Maya spa, with its uncompromising approach to health, well-being and beauty.

Further down the coast, Pinewood Village has its Amani Day Spa, while The Sands at Nomad offers its Forest Breeze centre with professional massages and facials, pedicures and manicures, exotic body scrubs and personalised natural treatments along with a range of beauty treatments.

Away from the coast, there is less emphasis on ‘wellness’. Some Nairobi hotels have more traditional health and fitness clubs, but many camps and lodges are just too intimate to warrant such facilities. In any case, with guests busy each morning and late afternoon on game drives, this leaves little time for out-and-out relaxation and many wait until they reach the coast before pampering themselves and getting the dust out of their hair.

There are exceptions, of course. The Loisaba Wilderness Spa at Loisaba Lodge, for example, combines wildlife with well-being by offering its guests sheer indulgence combined with views of the Laikipia Plateau.



THERE'S NO BETTER PLACE FOR TAKING THE PLUNGE

The joys of clear, unpolluted blue water and a tropical climate all year round combine to make Kenya one of the world's top diving destinations.

The best diving conditions are from October to April, when the water is particularly warm and clear, but Kenya is pretty much a year-round destination in this regard.

Nevertheless, sea states are not especially conducive to diving from May to July, the coast's 'winter' period.

Kenya has no fewer than five marine national parks – Watamu, Mombasa, Malindi, Kisite and Kiunga – covering a total area of 332 sq km. In addition to the parks, there are large-scale marine reserves off the coast of Kenya.

Not surprisingly, many coast properties now offer a dedicated diving school or other related facilities, mostly for those looking to dive as part of a more general holiday. At the top end of the market a diving school is almost obligatory, but even quite modest establishments have good facilities or can arrange for guests to use a nearby PADI centre.

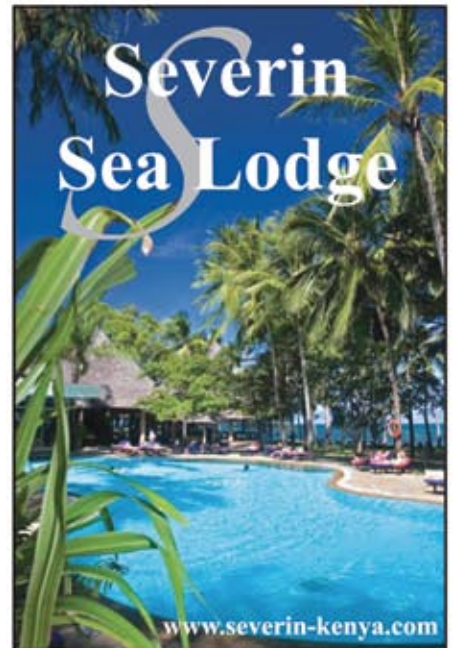
SPECIALISE

But there are one or two hotels which could be said to specialise in diving – perhaps when coupled with big-game fishing – and which look to diving and water sports as their main source of clientele. This is particular true of Watamu, for example, with its easy access to the nearby marine park.





In addition to residential diving, Kenya provides opportunities for visitors to experience the pleasures of a 'live-aboard'. This type of diving holiday is for aficionados who want 100 per cent diving and nothing else. Where they exist, live-aboard holidays tend to be concentrated in the far south of Kenya, where there is easy access to the Pemba Channel and the Spice Islands beyond. In contrast to the sometimes mass-market live-aboards elsewhere, these yachts cater only for small groups.



Severin Sea Lodge

www.severin-kenya.com



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This luxurious 4star resort hotel on Bamburi Beach is one of Kenya's favourites for holiday makers.

KENYAN CAPITAL'S 'SECRET' TREASURE - HOUSE OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

For many, Nairobi is either somewhere to arrive and quickly transfer to another destination, or for a place for a brief – often reluctant – overnight stop before going home or heading for the game parks.

In fact, most visitors arriving at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport then transfer immediately to nearby Wilson Airport for their short flight to the bush, or pick up their safari van for

the overland trip to their lodge or camp. And they do exactly the same in reverse on their way home.

This is a real pity, because Nairobi has so much to offer – even though it's fair to say that many of its attractions are not always immediately apparent to the fleeting visitor.

Not only does Nairobi possess some real hidden gems, but there is a host of attractions within easy striking distance of the city to delight even the most hard-bitten and world-weary traveller.

For a start, there is Nairobi National Park, headquarters of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the only game park of its kind to be located near a capital city. Covering 117 sq km, it is also East Africa's oldest game park. So you don't even need to go far to see wildlife. And there cannot be many airports in Africa where it's common to see giraffe or herds of antelope on your drive into the city.

OPPORTUNITY

Right alongside the entrance to Nairobi Game Reserve is the Nairobi Education Centre - Animal Orphanage, which is not only a refuge for young animals but also provides an opportunity for visitors, especially local schoolchildren, to interact with some of Kenya's best-known wildlife.

Not far from Nairobi Game Reserve and on the same road heading out of town in the direction of the delightfully elegant suburb of Karen – named after Danish author Karen Blixen – are the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's elephant sanctuary and The Giraffe Manor, which is also a rather splendid small hotel, surrounded by 140 acres of indigenous forest.





The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is a sanctuary for orphaned elephants and visitors can actually watch them being fed by their keepers.

These two attractions make an ideal combined visit and can be linked to a lunch or dinner at the Karen Blixen Coffee Garden or the Karen Country Club. It's also possible to visit the Karen Blixen museum, located in the original farmhouse where the author lived from 1914 to 1931. The house was presented to the Kenyan government at the time of independence by the Danish government.

SUBURBS

On the far side of the city from Karen is another upmarket suburb, Muthaiga, which is also home to Nairobi's diplomatic corps. The Muthaiga Country Club, an integral part of Kenya's colonial history, is the setting for the book 'White Mischief', which tells the true-life story of the murder of Lord Errol.

Muthaiga Golf Club, dating from the early 1900s, is the home of the Kenya Open. Nairobi has several other excellent golf clubs as well as enjoying the perfect climate in which to play the game.

For those interested in Kenya's colonial past, there is probably no finer example than the Kentmere Club – the quintessential settlers'

club – located in the Tigoni Highlands about 20 km from the city centre. It is also possible to stay overnight at the club.

As for Nairobi itself, this is a city of wonderful restaurants serving fine, locally grown food in convivial surroundings at affordable prices. It's also a city with a varied and exciting nightlife that doesn't just come awake on a Friday or Saturday. Visitors are sure to receive a warm welcome from whatever establishment they frequent – even those that don't, on first inspection, look especially promising.

For shopaholics, there can be no finer experience than a visit to Village Market. This not only contains an excellent assortment of small shops and some larger stores but is also THE place to be seen at weekends. Visitors can enjoy a large cup of Kenyan coffee and a light meal in the plaza. Village Market is probably the best place to buy locally made handicrafts and curios and is the location for the weekly Maasai market on Tuesdays at the Globe Cinema, Saturdays at the city's High Court Parking and on Sunday at Yaya Centre. The market is also held elsewhere in Nairobi on other days of the week.

In short, Nairobi is a lively, exciting and, above all, fascinating place to visit. Once you have experienced its hidden treasures, you will want to come back.

Severin Safari Camp

Tsavo West National Park

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Adventure, unforgettable safari-experience and a camp with 21 5star tents, international cuisine and unexpected comfort.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO ROVE THE LAND IN STYLE



Let's face it: there's nothing quite like a Land Rover when it comes to that traditional safari experience. Now there's a new and more powerful Land Rover on its way to Kenya

Land Rovers have been in Kenya since 1948. This remarkable fact shows the longevity of the marque as well as the sheer suitability of the vehicle in a country where roads – although greatly improved in recent times – still leave something to be desired.

So whether it's for wildlife conservation, game park management or just trying to sell an authentic safari, the classic Land Rover Defender, with its bags of tradition and go-anywhere capability, is everyone's idea of what an off-road vehicle in Africa should be.

Clearly, it is more expensive than a standard safari van, but then again there is no comparison as a Land Rover's permanent 4x4 transmission makes it suitable for off-road driving in the game parks all year round. Quite simply, it is the vehicle that discerning visitors to Kenya expect to see and ride in as part of their safari experience.

What's more, the Land Rover keeps getting better, even if its basic and ageless design seems to stay more or less the same. A new 2.4TDi common-rail engine with a six-speed gearbox

hit the Kenyan market in mid 2007, replacing the five-cylinder 2.5Td5 turbocharged unit. The new and more refined engine produces a beefy 360 Nm of torque – 20 per cent more than the venerable Td5.

Although the new engine is designed to reduce carbon emissions and to comply fully with tough European EU4 emissions legislation, Kenyan buyers will be pleased to learn that it has been developed to tolerate variable quality high-sulphur fuels. Even before the introduction of the new high-output unit, Land Rover diesel engines were already the most cost-effective in terms of fuel consumption.

SPREAD OF RATIOS

The new six-speed manual transmission features a wide spread of ratios. The lower first gear offers a reduction in crawl speed and improved pull-away to make off-road driving even easier. While the additional sixth gear may not get used every day in the game park, it does provide smoother cruising performance for airport pick-ups and long-distance guest transport.

For safari operators, local distributor CMC Land Rover has a highly attractive zero deposit finance package with payments advantageously scheduled across 60 months.

Thanks to its long presence in the Kenyan market, Land Rover can offer countrywide service and certainly the best coverage in the National Parks in terms of after-sales support.

In terms of adapting vehicles for local operation, it is worth noting that all conversion work is undertaken locally and Land Rovers are generally custom-built for each operator. Refinements can include roof hatches, cool boxes and special seat configurations. The vehicles arrive in Kenya from Land Rover's UK plant at Solihull in Completely Knocked Down (CKD) form to be assembled at CMC's Thika plant.

Land Rover offers safari operators two basic variations – short and long wheelbase options (the 110 or 130 versions) plus any number of body configurations with open and enclosed variants. Open vehicles are generally limited to in-park operation, while the enclosed version is perfect for transfers but also doubles as a game watching platform.

TRAINING CENTRE

In Nairobi, Land Rover provides a highly valued training centre for drivers and guides with an emphasis on safety, respect for the environment and responsible driving in the national parks.

Locally, and as part of the company's commitment to the preservation of Kenyan wildlife, Land Rover is involved in two key projects:

- The Born Free Foundation (BFF), where Land Rover has supplied two Defenders to form part of the BFF's anti-poaching activities as well as those of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). A new Land Rover Defender also helps Youth for Conservation's eager team of volunteers to visit villages and inform local people about wildlife.
- Rhino Ark: Land Rover sponsors the annual off-road Rhino Charge, a gruelling 10-hour event involving more than 50 vehicles that raises money for the Rhino Ark sanctuary in the Aberdares. Entrants tackle seemingly impossible terrain to complete the shortest distance between a series of checkpoints. It's all great fun, but with the added feature that everyone is doing their bit to safeguard an endangered species.

In addition to traditional safari-related products, Land Rover sells a full range of vehicles into the Kenya market including the Range Rover, Range Rover Sport, Discovery 3 and Freelander 2 (which was launched in mid 2007).



Mombasa By Night



www.severin-kenya.com



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A romantic Dhow Sundowner Cruise, an amazing Sound & Light Show at ancient Fort Jesus and a 4-course al fresco Gala Dinner within the Fort.

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Amarula Cream continues to perpetuate the 'Spirit of Africa' in Kenya, through its continued support of a variety of wildlife conservation efforts as well as pioneering numerous community initiatives.

Embodied in Amarula Cream's 'spirit', is the African elephant. An enduring symbol, this majestic giant of the African bush evokes timeless images of nature uninfluenced by modernisation and industrialisation. With a strong brand association to the African elephant, Amarula Cream is indelibly linked through its logo, brand essence and the Marula fruit itself, so favoured by elephants. Thus, for its beloved, Amarula Cream supports conservation, protection and management of the elephant and its ever dwindling environment.

In Kenya, these efforts spearheaded by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), were initiated towards the end of 2006. The first phase supported the local community as well as visitors to the Nairobi Safari Walk and Animal Orphanage through the erection of street lighting outside KWS's headquarters along Langata Road. The lighting project was an answer to the rising fear of insecurity among residents and the inconvenience caused to road users in and out of the area.

In addition, new bus shelters were constructed outside KWS headquarters, which serve as a gateway to Nairobi National Park, one of Kenya's many national parks and reserves. It is the first national park to be established in East Africa in December 1946 and the only park in the world to be located within a Capital city making this an important landmark worthy of preservation and attention.

The project Amarula Cream spearheaded has had a positive impact on the economic and social activities of the Langata community with a marked improvement in security and has helped to boost the image of the Kenya Wildlife Service.

For the conservation programme, Amarula Cream donates Kshs. 20 for every bottle of the world famous beverage purchased in Kenya. The money raised is being utilised to support wildlife rehabilitation efforts, the upgrading and maintaining of four picnic sites in the scenic Lake Nakuru Park, home to the pink flamingo.

Through the KWS partnership, Amarula Cream has realised enormous benefits in its cause to support wildlife conservation. For the future, more plans are in the pipeline to continue conservation initiatives to ensure that wildlife is conserved for generations to come as it should be: in nature – naturally.



This is where Amarula Cream Liqueur comes from Africa's subequatorial plains, and the unique marula trees scattered across them. Elephants are known to walk vast distances to taste the trees' exotic fruits, the same fruits



we use to make Amarula. The marula juice is distilled and then matured for two years in oak before being blended with the finest, freshest cream available. The result is pure indulgence: Amarula's rich, smooth taste is utterly irresistible.



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OLE-SERENI HOTEL
The City Hotel by the Game Park



WE OFFER LUXURY WITH THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Combining all the best features of a modern City Hotel and a traditional Wildlife Lodge, the Ole-Sereni is named after the Maasai name of the area, meaning 'place of tranquility.'

Located just off the Mombasa Road and overlooking Nairobi Game Park, the Hotel has 132 exquisitely decorated rooms, 2 Suites, Conference Facilities for up to 500 persons, a Business Centre, a Sports Bar, Library and a Health Club.

For those who want the best of both worlds, the Ole-Sereni Hotel is the perfect answer. As 'the city hotel on the Game Park', it offers guests a chance to view game only 15 minutes after leaving the Airport. Guests can view the waterhole in the Park from the Restaurants, from a selection of rooms and from a special 300ft long veranda.

The hotel has 50 Standard Rooms, 48 Superior rooms overlooking the waterhole, 32 Deluxe rooms with verandas, some also overlooking the Park, and two suites with Jacuzzi, both with a veranda overlooking the Park. All rooms are twin/double with private bath/showers, air conditioning, safe, minibar, tea/coffee facilities, interactive TV, internet and telephone.

The 4750 square ft Conference and Banqueting rooms is suitable for exhibitions. It can also be divided into five rooms for 80 persons each. The public areas of the Hotel are quite special, with a 300 ft long veranda on the first floor, overlooking the waterhole and containing a Bar, Snack Bar, Restaurant and Swimming Pool.

On the fourth floor, overlooking the waterhole and the skyline of Nairobi is the high-class Grillroom Restaurant with its own Club Bar and evening entertainment. The Main Restaurant, the Big Five, boasts an 'open show' kitchen offering five types of Cuisine: Chinese, Indian, Italian, Mongolian and International -style grills.



Hotel Lobby



*Hotel Promenade
 & Waterhole Bar*



*Big Five Restaurant
 & Bar*



*Duma Grillroom
 & Club Bar*

DIRECTORY OF CIRCUITS, NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

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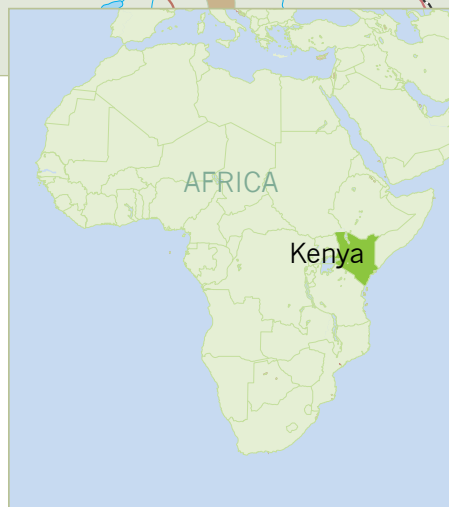
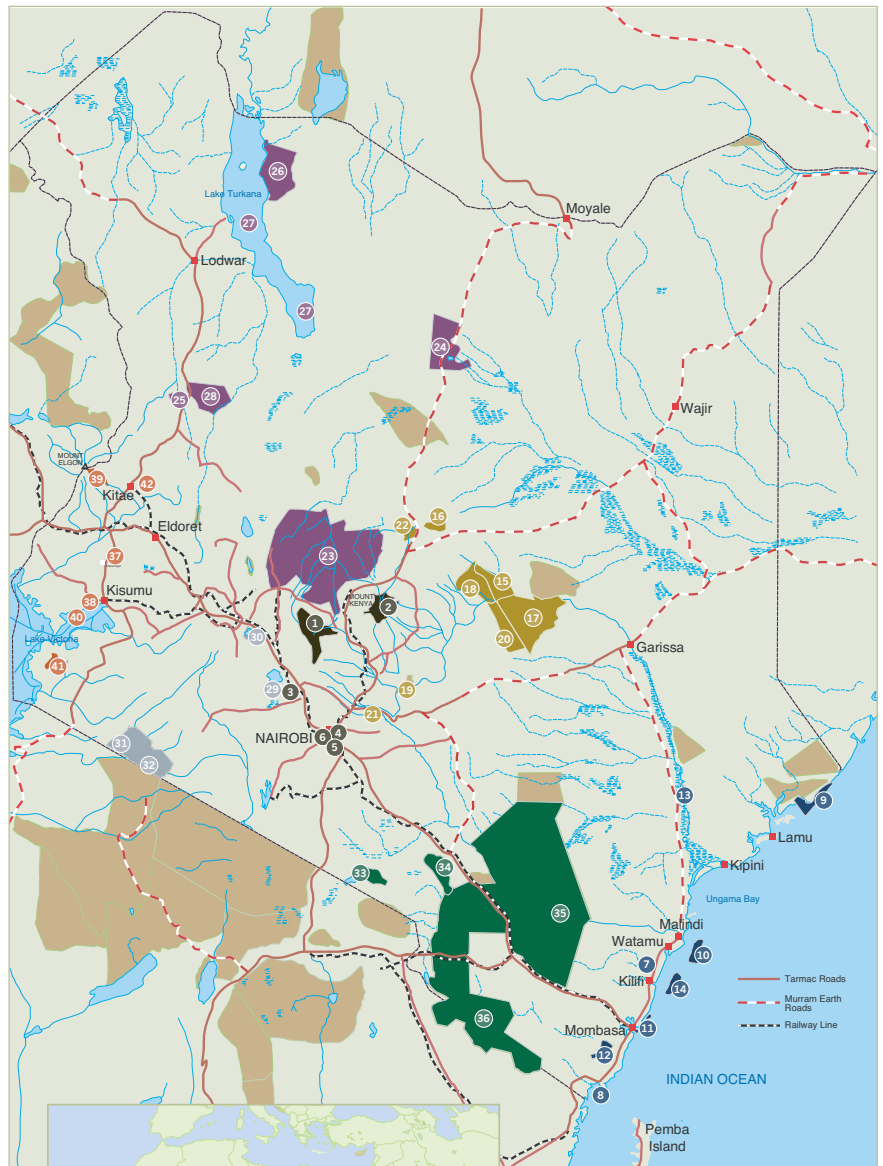
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CENTRAL KENYA REGION

HIGH HILL COUNTRY IS PARADISE FOR DAREDEVILS



This is the high hill country above Nairobi – a land of mountain peaks, spectacular waterfalls and remote alpine moors that provide a unique and breathtaking African landscape. It is also an area of coffee plantations and small farms that make up the region's thriving agricultural sector.

There is, of course, wildlife to view. But, for the visitor, this is an area in which to enjoy adrenalin-fuelled sports such as white-water rafting, mountaineering and bungee jumping and a chance to participate in less strenuous activities not usually associated with Kenya, such as hill walking and trout fishing.

MOUNT KENYA

The jewel in the crown of the Central Kenya circuit is Mount Kenya which, at 5,200 metres, is Africa's second highest mountain. It is certainly a much more challenging and interesting climb than the 'walk-up' that is used to reach the summit of Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro.

Nearby is Aberdare National Park, which complements Mount Kenya. The National Park is an area of moorland offering the perfect location for hill walking.

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AN OCEAN OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPORT AND LEISURE

The dazzling Kenyan coastline is one of sun-drenched beaches with soft sand, warm turquoise waters and refreshing sea breezes. The coast is also dotted with attractive creeks, sleepy rivers and shady inlets. This is an ideal place for big game fishing, diving, water sports – or just lying on the beach.

No region in Kenya is better served in terms of hotel accommodation. From Lamu in the north to Chale Island in the far south, visitors will find just about every type of hotel with a range of prices to suit all budgets.

Lying just offshore is a series of highly protected marine parks – Mombasa, Malindi, Diani/Chale Island, Kiunga, Kisite Mpunguti and Watamu – that together stretch almost the entire length of the Kenyan coastline, offering a true paradise for divers.

SPECIALISED

Inland, the Coastline Region contains a number of small and mostly specialised parks and reserves:

- Arabuko Sokoke Forest National Park, located between Malindi and Watamu, is the last major remnant of tropical rain forest at the coast and features some rare species of birds.
- Tana River Primate National Reserve, covering 171 square kilometres, is home too a wide range of species including the rare and endangered manglebeys and red colobus monkeys.
- Shimba Hills National Reserve, located conveniently close to the Diani resort on the south coast, is the only place in Kenya to view the sable antelope. This is the only park in the circuit where accommodation is available.



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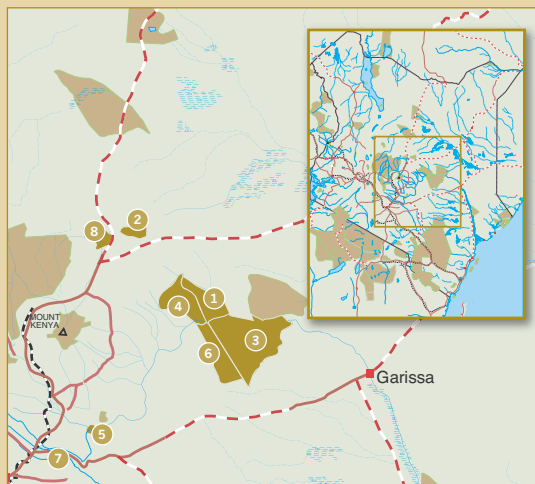
A 'MUST' FOR WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS LOVERS

Just a short hop from Nairobi, yet a world away in every other respect, is the Eastern Region circuit, which includes the Samburu National Reserve as well as the eco friendly parks – less visited, but now gaining in popularity.

Samburu is strong on upmarket accommodation in delightful surroundings. Along with Shaba and Buffalo Springs, it forms a more or less contiguous park separated only by the Ewaso Nyiro River. Together, Samburu, Shaba and Buffalo Springs provide an opportunity to view five species or sub-species that are found almost nowhere else in Kenya: the beisa oryx, gerenuk, Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe and Somali ostrich.

'BORN FREE'

The 870 sq km Meru National Park, once the home of Joy and George Adamson, of 'Born



Free' fame, is set to make a comeback as one of Kenya's great wildlife viewing parks and is being restocked by the Kenya Wildlife Service. Meru consists largely of open savannah and forms a complex of protected areas that also include the adjacent Bisanadi and Mwingi National Reserves, Kora National Park and Rahole National Reserve.

Another interesting destination – within easy reach of Nairobi – is Ol Donyo Sabuk, a mountain area offering magnificent views in all directions. It is possible to drive to the summit. The Mau Mau caves are also worth a visit.

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A RUGGED LANDSCAPE FULL OF NATURAL WONDERS

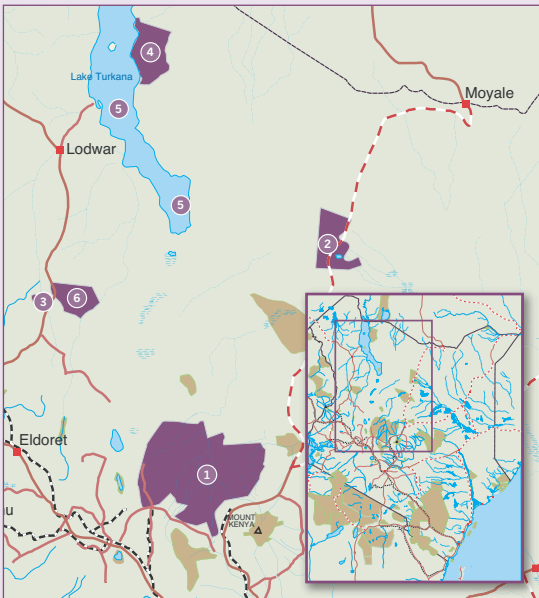


The mostly remote and sometimes hard-to-reach attractions of the North Rift circuit are for the adventurous and for those seeking to explore Kenya at its most rugged. But they also appeal to visitors who are drawn by the area's lakes, hot springs and bird sanctuaries.

Parks, lakes and attractions such as Lake Bogoria, Lake Baringo, Kamnarok, Turkana's South and Central Islands, Nasolot, Sibiloi and Marsabit see only occasional visitors. But these parks hold a particular fascination for experienced travellers who like to go off the beaten track and for visitors with time on their hands.

The appeal of each can be summed up as follows:

- Lake Bogoria National Reserve is famed for its natural hot springs and geysers. It is also good for bird watching and has its fair share of game



- Close by, Kamnarok National Reserve, is perfect for bird watching and game viewing
- South Turkana National Reserve and Nasolot are on either side of the main highway. Nasolot overlooks one of Kenya's unique features, the immensely deep crevice of Turkwell Gorge.
- The Lake Turkana National Parks – Sibiloi, Central Island and South Island – form a Unesco World Heritage Site. Lake Turkana is the most northerly of the Great Rift Valley lakes.

CAMEL DERBY

One of the main events in this region is the annual Maralal Camel Derby, the only one of its kind in Kenya. Accommodation is scarce this region. Where it does exist, it is geared to the independent traveller.

Laikipia, the hot new destination for wilderness lovers, is fast developing into a major, but exclusive, high density game viewing area. Laikipia is also strong on bio diversity and home to many threatened or endangered species. At the same time, it is an area where game viewing can be combined with non-wildlife activities such as ballooning, camel riding, fishing, hiking, horse riding and mountain biking.

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SOUTH RIFT REGION

IDEAL DESTINATION FOR YOUR FIRST SAFARI EXPERIENCE

THE South Rift circuit comprises the most varied as well as some of the best known attractions in Kenya, including the famed Masai Mara National Reserve and Lake Naivasha.

The popular and easily accessible Lake Nakuru National Park is justly famed for its large flamingo population and its rhino sanctuary.

The Masai Mara National Reserve is without doubt Kenya's most highly regarded wildlife experience. It is the northernmost point of the famous migration of wildebeest across the Serengeti Plains that occurs each year between July and September. The Masai Mara is the ideal first-time safari destination because it has a little bit of everything, including big cats in abundance, plenty of accommodation options – both inside and outside the Reserve – and a 'must do' activity in the form of sunrise balloon flights.

To the north, meanwhile, lies breathtaking Lake Naivasha, the most southerly of a series of Rift Valley lakes within Kenya and once the location of a flying boat service to London. The elegance of the lake's flamingos is matched by the quality of some of the surrounding accommodation.

Located very close to Naivasha is Hell's Gate National Park, a perfect place for hiking, camping, rock climbing and bird watching – not to mention the chance to see some unusual animals found only in this area.



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KENYA'S LARGEST GAME PARK OFFERS TOP QUALITY CAMPS AND LODGES

The Southern Region circuit is dominated by the Tsavo East and West game parks which together form Kenya's largest game park.

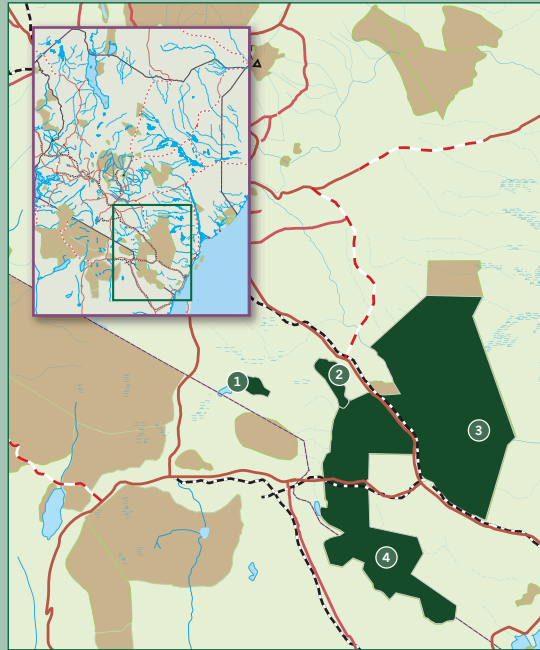
Amboseli National Park offers a well managed game watching experience against the stunning backdrop of Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. Amboseli is arguably one of Kenya's best places in which to view elephant.

Tsavo, which straddles the Mombasa to Nairobi road and railway, covers an area of more than 30,000 square metres. Much of this is a wilderness that rarely sees visitors.

Tsavo West alone accounts for some 30 per cent of Kenya's total park area. It offers excellent upmarket accommodation, both camps and lodges, as well as some of the nation's largest elephant herds. There is a less plentiful supply of accommodation in the smaller Tsavo East.

EXCURSIONS

Being close to the Indian Ocean, Tsavo is an ideal one-day or two-day excursion that is popular with people on holiday at the coast who can fly in and out with ease. An added incentive is the good choice of accommodation.



Much of the region is savannah, but rocky outcrops and ridges punctuate the landscape. Palms and even mountain vegetation can be found at Chyulu Hills. With its commanding views over the open savannah, Chyulu is a great vantage point that also provides an opportunity to see lava flows and ash cones.

Within the park, close to the Tanzanian border, is beautiful Lake Jipe, fed by the run-off from Mount Kilimanjaro. In the north of the park lie the Mzima Springs, where water gushes from the Chyulu Hills into a series of crystal-clear pools.

SOUTHERN REGION CIRCUIT

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GOING OFF-TRAIL IN SEARCH OF UNDISCOVERED SECRETS

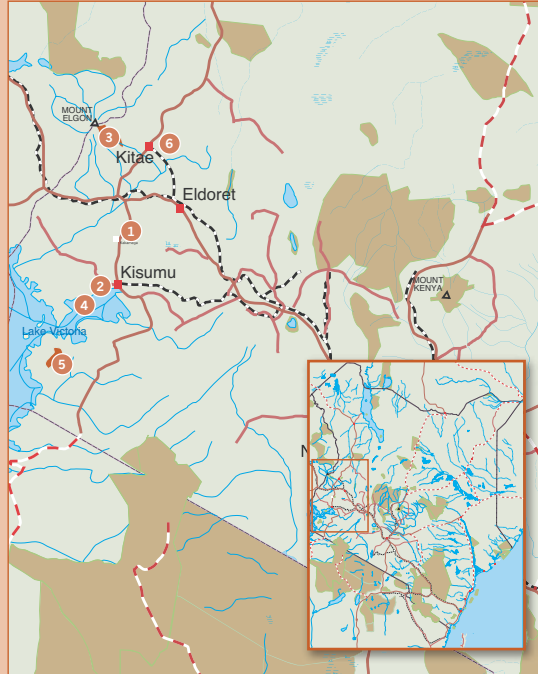
This is one of the nation's least visited regions in terms of tourism numbers. Yet Western Kenya is an area with hidden gems for those who enjoy life off the regular tourist trail.

As one might expect, accommodation here is limited and perhaps less luxurious than elsewhere in Kenya. However, there are lodges and camps up to three-star standard as well as a selection of other accommodation such as the bandas available at Kakamega.

The easiest way to reach this region is by regular scheduled flights into Kisumu Airport or by the generally good road from Nairobi.

RARE SPECIES

This area of rich forests, swamp and strange rock formations is home to some of Kenya's rarest animal species. In particular, it features the rain forest of Kakamega, covering 240 square kilometres, which provides a habitat for over 300 species of birds and experiences an annual rainfall of more than 2,000 mm. The Kakamega Forest also contains a variety of animal species including the endangered De-



Brazza's monkey, which is found in the nearby Kisere Forest Reserve.

Visitors should also consider a trip to Ndere Island in Lake Victoria, the Kisumu Impala Sanctuary or Ruma National Park – the last refuge in Kenya of the roan antelope.

This is also the only place in Kenya where it is possible to view traditional bullfighting – not quite the spectacle seen in Spain, because, in this case, the fighting takes place between two bulls.

WESTERN KENYA CIRCUIT

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ABERDARE NATIONAL PARK

MAJESTIC PEAKS, MOORLANDS AND FALLS

CENTRAL KENYA REGION



The Aberdares is an isolated volcanic range that forms the eastern wall of the rift valley, running roughly 100 km north-south between Nairobi and Thomson's Falls. Soils are red and of volcanic origin, but rich in organic matter. There are two main peaks, Ol Donyo Lesatima (3,999 metres) and Kinangop (3,906 metres) separated by a long saddle of Alpine moorland at over 3,000 metres. The topography is diverse with deep ravines that cut through the forested eastern and western slopes and there are many clear streams and waterfalls. The Aberdares are an important water catchment area providing water to the Tana and Athi rivers and part of Central Rift and Northern drainage basins.

The National Park lies mainly above the tree line running along the 10,000 ft (3,048 metres) contour with some forest and scrub at lower altitude in the 'salient' area near Nyeri with the boundary running down to the 7,000 ft (2,296 metres) contour.

The unusual vegetation, rugged terrain, streams and waterfalls combine to create an area of great scenic beauty in the National Park. The park is surrounded by a predominantly indigenous forest, whose management is under a MoU between KWS and the Forest Department.

Contact details

PO Box 22, Nyeri.
Tel: +254 61 (0)550 24121, 24124
Email: aberdare@wananchi.com
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Central highlands, west of Mount Kenya; Nyeri District; Central Province

Distance from Nairobi

160 km

Size

767 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Mist and heavy rainfall occur throughout much of the year, with precipitation varying from around 1,000 mm yearly on the north-western slopes to as much as 3,000 mm in the south-east.

Major Attractions

Lesatima Peak, Kinangop Peak, waterfalls, walks in the moorlands, Twin Hills, Elephant Hills and Table Mountains. Second largest population of black rhinos in Salient and northern Aberdare. Queen Elizabeth II learned of her accession to the British throne at Treetops lodge. The Kimathi Hideout/Mau Mau caves.

Wildlife

The park is home to most of the larger mammals, having a large population of black rhino. The park has endangered species including the rare bongo, giant forest hog, packs of the now very rare wild dogs and endemic mole-rat and mole shrew.

Other game includes leopard, serval, endemic bird species, reptiles and insects.

Access

Roads: The park is readily accessible on tarmac from Nyeri and Naro Moru on the eastern side (160 km from Nairobi). A road crosses the park to connect with another from Naivasha and North Kinangop

in the west. The main towns from which the park can be approached are Nyeri (154 km from Nairobi), Nyahururu (188 km from Nairobi) and Naivasha (87 km from Nairobi).

Airstrips: Mweiga Airstrip is next to the park headquarters or Nyeri Airstrip is 12 km from Mweiga headquarters.

Accommodation

Lodges: The Ark – managed by Fairmont Hotels, The Aberdare Country Club, Treetops – managed by Aberdare Safari Hotels

Kenya Wildlife Service: Fishing Lodge, Ruhuruini, Tusk Camp, Sapper Hut, KWS Hut at Treetops, KWS HQ bungalow

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Mountain climbing, camping, hiking, walking, game viewing, night viewing of wildlife at The Ark and Treetops Lodges. Trout fishing is also available along the numerous ice-cold clear flowing streams.



AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

KILIMANJARO'S ROYAL COURT

SOUTHERN REGION



Amboseli lies immediately north-west of Mount Kilimanjaro, on the border with Tanzania. Amboseli was established as a reserve in 1968 and gazetted as a National Park in 1974. The Park covers 392 square km, and forms part of the much larger 3,000 square km Amboseli ecosystem. Large concentrations of wildlife occur here in the dry season, making Amboseli a popular tourist destination. It is surrounded by six communally owned group ranches.

The National Park embodies five main wildlife habitats (open plains, acacia woodland, rocky thorn bush country, swamps and marshland) and covers part of a Pleistocene lake basin, now dry. Within this basin is a temporary lake, Lake Amboseli, that floods during years of heavy rainfall. Amboseli is famous for its big game and its great scenic beauty – and the landscape is dominated by the towering Mount Kilimanjaro.

Contact details

PO Box 18 Namanga
Tel: +254 (0)456 22251
Fax: +254 (0)456 22250
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

On the border with Tanzania, Loitokitok District, South Kenya

Distance from Nairobi

Namanga (240 km), Emali (228 km)

Size

392 square km

Park fees

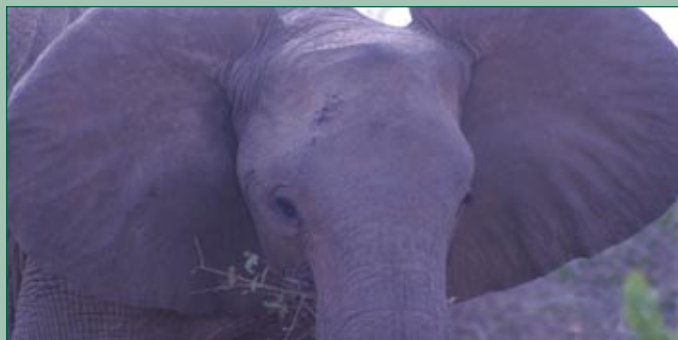
Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The climate is mainly hot and dry. Amboseli is in the rain shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro. The maximum average temperature of the warmest month is 33°C during the day, while that of the coldest is 27-28°C. An annual rainfall of 300 mm per annum is distributed over two seasons: April/May and November/December. Recurrent droughts and potential evaporation of 2,200 mm per annum typifies the region.

Major Attractions

Mount Kilimanjaro; Observation Hill which allows an overall view of the whole park especially the



swamps and elephants; Swamp below observation hill hosts many elephants, buffaloes, hippos and a variety of water fowl like pelican; Egyptian goose; contemporary Maasai culture and indigenous lifestyle; herds of elephants

Wildlife

Amboseli has over 80 different mammals to be found ranging from the tiny (and rarely seen) spectacled elephant shrew to the huge bulk of the African elephant. Few visitors will go home without superb elephant pictures with Kilimanjaro as a backdrop. There are over 400 bird species.

Access

Roads: The main road into the park is from Nairobi via Namanga (240 km) on the Nairobi-Arusha Road, via Meshanani Gate. The road is tarmaced up to Namanga but is murrum from Namanga to Meshanani Gate (75km). The other road is via

Emali (228 km) on the Nairobi - Mombasa Road. The road is tarmaced up to Emali and murrum from Emali to Remito Gate (64 km) Access from Mombasa is mainly through Tsavo West via Kimana (Olkelunyiet) Gate.

Airstrips: The Park has an airstrip at Empusel gate. There is also an airstrip for light aircraft at the Park Headquarters (Olkelunyiet). Other airstrips exist at Kilimanjaro Buffalo Lodge and Namanga town.

Accommodation

Lodges: Ol Tukai Lodge, Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge, Tortilis Camp

Kenya Wildlife Service: Kilimanjaro Guest house, Kibo Guest House, Simba Bandas, Nyati Bandas, Chui Bandas

Best time to visit

All year round



ARABUKO SOKOKE FOREST NATIONAL PARK

LAST LARGE REMNANT OF LOWLAND COASTAL TROPICAL FORESTS

COASTLINE REGION



Contact details

PO Box 109 Malindi
Tel: +254 (0)42 3246
Email:
kwsarabuko@africaonline.co.ke
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Coastal Strip, Kilifi District.

Distance from Mombasa

75 km from Mombasa or by

plane through Malindi or Mombasa airports.

Size

The reserve covers 6 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Average annual rainfall ranges from 900 mm in the dry and scrubby north-west to 1,100 mm in the east.

Major Attraction

Endemic bird species, butterflies, remnant coastal forest. The park is the largest existing fragment of the tropical forests that covered much of the East African coast and is an important Kenya safari habitat for endemic and endangered birds, insects, butterflies and mammal species.

Wildlife

Golden-rumped elephant-shrew, Sokoke bushy-tailed mongoose, Ader's duiker, waterbuck, bush-buck, civet, blotched genet, caracal, Sykes' monkey, birds.

Access

Roads: Access through Mombasa, tarmac road - 75 km.

Access through Malindi.

Air: Malindi and Mombasa

Airports.

Accommodation

There is currently no accommodation in the reserve. There is plenty of accommodation along the coast to suit all budget levels.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Bird Watching, butterfly watching, walking trails, game viewing.



Arabuko Sokoke was proclaimed a Crown Forest and gazetted in 1943. Part of the forest was gazetted as a strict nature reserve in the late 1960s. The reserve is a few kilometres inland, between the towns of Kilifi and Malindi, 110 km north of Mombasa. It is the largest existing fragment of the tropical forests that once covered much of the East African coast and is an important habitat for endemic/endangered birds, insects and mammal species. It is also an important monument as a remnant of the coastal tropical forests. There are easy trails in the forests that are also great for birders. A couple of reptile species are found here including boomslang, green mamba, rock python, forest cobra, sand lizard and day geullo. It is a great reserve for birdwatching with species including Sokoke pipit, Amani sunbird, Fischer's turaco, Clarke's weaver (endemic to Kenya), golden woodpecker.

BISANADI NATIONAL RESERVE

EASTERN REGION



Contact details

PO Box 11, Maua
Tel: +254 (0)164 20613
Cell: +254 (0)733 662439
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden/ Tourism Officer

Location

Adjacent to north-east boundary of Meru, Isiolo district.

Distance from Nairobi

348 km

Size

606 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The climate is hot and dry

Major Attraction

Wilderness habitat, game viewing, Adamson's Falls, fishing and boating on River Tana and Rojewero River.

Wildlife

Many species of mammals in-



cluding lion, elephant, cheetah, rhino, buffalo, hippos and over 400 species of birds.

Access

Roads: The reserve is readily accessible via Meru National Park, Murera Gate.

Accommodation

There is currently no accommodation in the reserve. Visitors can stay in the adjacent Meru National Park where there are various accommodation options.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing, fishing in River Tana, bird watching.

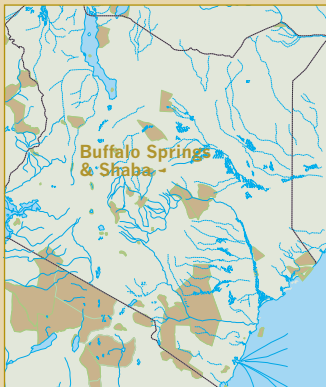
Bisanadi National Reserve acts as a wildlife dispersal area for Meru National Park. It is a part of the Meru, Kora, Mwingi and Bisanadi conservation area, adjacent to north-east boundary of Meru, Isiolo district, covering an area of 606 square km.

The vegetation is mainly thorn bushland and thicket with combretum prevailing in the north and commiphora in the south. To the west the combretum merges into terminalia wooded grasslands. The red-flowered parasitic *Ironia* grows on the branches of acacia *reficiens* along the rivers. Dense riverine forests of doum palm *hyphaene* spp. and raffia palm *raphia* spp. occur along the water courses. Some riverine swamps have sedges *Cyperus* sp., and grasses *Echinochloa haplachelada* and *Pennisetum mezianum*. On the plains *Setaria nervosa*, *Chloris roxburghiana* and other species of *Pennisetum* are the dominant grasses.

BUFFALO SPRINGS AND SHABA NATIONAL RESERVE

ISILO NATIONAL GAME RESERVE

EASTERN REGION



The Isiolo District lies at the northern foot of Mt Kenya rising above the expansive range lands of northern Kenya. The arid and semi-arid zones district sits as a divide between the populous agricultural highlands of the Mt. Kenya region and acts as a gateway into the vast lowlands of North Kenya inhabited by various nomadic pastoralist communities where wildlife and livestock freely co-exist.

Together with the adjacent Samburu, and divided by the river Ewaso Nyiro, the three reserves form a very popular tourist destination because of the diverse wildlife populations they support. Unlike other wildlife areas in Kenya's northern tourist circuit, the reserves, which are popularly known as the Samburu Ecosystem, sustain free ranging wildlife species both within the three reserves as well as far into community lands.



Contact Details

County Council of Isiolo,
PO Box 36,
Isiolo, 60300
Tel/Fax: +254 (0)64 52519

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Northern end of Mt. Kenya

Distance from Nairobi

300km to the gate of Buffalo Springs Reserves

Park Fees

Contact tour operator.

Climatic Conditions

Temperatures range from 30°C during hottest months to 20°C between July and September. Annual rainfalls range between 100mm to 300mm on average usually divided into two seasons, short rains in October/November and long rains between February and May.

Wildlife

Besides normal species found elsewhere in Kenya, the area is a natural home to the five rare species known as the five northern species which are endemic to this area. They are Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, beisa oryx, Somali ostrich and the gerenuk. Shaba is also the home for the highly endangered

Williamson's lark. All these rare species can only be found inside this game reserve.

Access

Roads: From Nairobi through Nanyuki on a tarmac road to Isiolo, then a 22km murram road.

Air: Buffalo Springs Airstrip is used by scheduled flights from Nairobi each day linking the reserves to other tourism destinations.

Best time to visit

All the year round

Activities

Game viewing safari, nature walks, entertainment by pastoralist cultural dancers, and visits to cultural villages to get the experience of nomadic lifestyle in the community.



CHYULU HILLS NATIONAL PARK

SOUTHERN REGION



The Chyulu Hills are situated 190 km south-east of Nairobi and 30 km south-west of Kibwezi. They are of relatively recent volcanic origin and the range is composed of ash cones and craters.

The hills hold no permanent surface water but rainfall percolating through the porous rock feeds many permanent fresh water sources in the surrounding plains, notably Mzima springs and the Tsavo and Galana rivers.

The hills are relatively undisturbed and shelter indigenous vegetation and wildlife. The park comprises the eastern flank of the hills including about half of the forest area. The park boundary runs down the centre of the hills along the line of the peaks. The western half is part of the West Chyulu Game Conservation area, owned by several Maasai group ranches.



Contact details

PO Box 458
Kibwezi
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Makueni District, Eastern Province and Kajiado District, Rift Valley Province

Distance from Nairobi

230 km

Size

870 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The climate is hot and dry

Major Attractions

Breathtaking views from the Chyulu Hills, cave exploration, one camp site next to park headquarters; game viewing

Wildlife

Reptiles: black mamba, puff adder, rock python, geko, tortoise, lizard.

Insects/arthropods: dung Beetles, butterflies, tsetsefly.

Common Animals: buffalo, bush-buck, eland, elephant, leopard; forest bush pig, mountain reed-buck, steinbok, wild dogs

Access

Roads: Along Nairobi-Mombasa highway, the park signpost is 1 km past the Kibwezi turn off. Park gate is 10 km off the highway. There is limited road network within the park and a 4x4 vehicle with high clearance is highly recommended

Airstrips: There are two airstrips in the park

Accommodation

There is currently no accommodation in the park, but campsites Chyulu II, park headquarters, Kiboko campsite

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

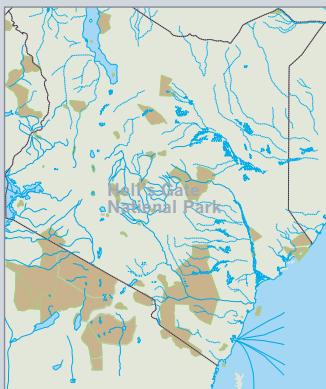
Wildlife viewing, camping, cave exploration, nature walks, hiking



HELL'S GATE NATIONAL PARK

HEAVEN'S VOLCANIC GLORY

SOUTH RIFT REGION



Contact details

PO Box 234-20117
Naivasha
Tel: +254 (0)50 50407/50290
Fax: +254 (0)311 20577
Email: hellsgatenp@kenyweb.com
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Naivasha town, Rift Valley
Province

Distance from Nairobi

90 km

Size

68 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact
tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Warm and dry

Attractions

Game viewing, raptor nesting in

cliffs, spectacular gorge walks, hot springs, scenic landscape, the Geothermal Station, Maasai culture.

Wildlife

Includes eland, buffalo, lion, giraffe, zebra, leopard, impala, Grant's and Thomson's gazelle, klipspringer, rock hyrax and Chanler's mountain reedbuck

Access

Roads: The Park is accessible via tarmac road from Nairobi. (90 km) via Naivasha town on the Lake Road South at Junction 5 km south of Naivasha.

Accommodation

While there is no accommodation in the park, a wide range of options exist in nearby Naivasha, or along Moi South Lake Road which leads from Naivasha to the park.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Hiking, camping, rock climbing, biking, bird watching and wildlife viewing.

Hell's Gate National Park covers an area of 68.25 square km and is situated in the environs of Lake Naivasha about 90 km from Nairobi. The park is 14 km after the turnoff from the old Nairobi-Naivasha highway. It is characterised by diverse topography and geological scenery. It is an important home of the lammergeyer.

Hell's Gate has two gates that are used by visitors – the main Elsa Gate and the Olkaria Gate. The latter also serves the Olkaria Geothermal Station that is located inside the National Park.



KAKAMEGA FOREST NATIONAL RESERVE

CANOPY OF NATURAL BEAUTY

WESTERN KENYA REGION



Size

240 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact
tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Annual rainfall is over 2,000 mm. Most of it falls between April and November with a short dry season from December to March. Rain falls mostly in the afternoon or early evening and is often accompanied by heavy thunderstorms. Average temperatures remain similar throughout – between 15-28°C.

Major Attractions

Over 300 bird species, over 350 varieties of trees, 27 species of snakes, over 400 species of butterflies. Game watching. The forest is mostly indigenous vegetation.

Wildlife

The majestic black and white colobus monkey alongside flying squirrels, blue monkey and potto (world's slowest mammal) are among the attractions. Forest buck, duikers and dik-diks are also found as

are the endangered Turner's eromomela, Charpin's flycatcher and the voice mimicking African grey parrot. The forest is home to the endangered DeBrazza's monkey found at the isolated Kisere Forest Reserve.

Access

By Road: Access is through the Buyangu gate, 600 metres from main road. On public transport, visitors alight at Kambiri junction. Local 'boda boda' cyclists operate from the junction to park. Watch for signpost after 15 km from Kakamega.

Accommodation

The forest reserve offers a serene atmosphere for both campers and banda accommodation.

KWS self-service accommodation:
Udo Bandas

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing, bird and butterfly watching, camping, self guided nature walks, night walks, picnicking.



Kakamega Forest was established to protect Kenya's only mid-altitude tropical rainforest – as the forest contains many species found nowhere else in the country. The forest lies in the Lake Victoria catchment, north of Kisumu and west of the Nandi Escarpment. It was first gazetted as a trust forest in 1933 and two small reserves, Yala and Isecheno were established within the forest in 1967.

In 1985, nearly 4,400 hectares of the forest together with the adjacent Kisere Forest were gazetted as Kakamega Forest National Reserve. The forest is an important water catchment area with two rivers flowing through it.

Contact details

PO Box 879, Kakamega
Tel: +254 (0)56 20425
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Kakamega District, Western
Province

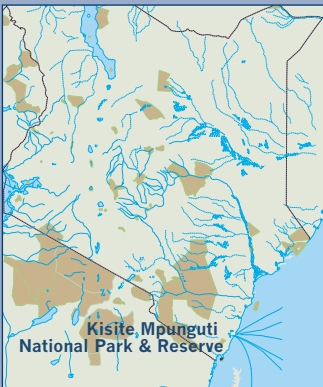
Distance from Nairobi

402 km (15 km from Kakamega
along Kakamega-Eldoret road).

KISITE MPUNGUTI MARINE NATIONAL PARK

ENCHANTED UNDERWATER REALM

COASTLINE REGION



Contact details

PO Box 55, Ukunda
Kwale District
Tel: +254 (0)40 52027
Email:
kisitenp@africaonline.co.ke
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Kwale District, Coast Province.
The Marine Park lies 6 km

off the Kenyan Coast (at Shimoni) and 8 km north of the Tanzania.

Distance from Mombasa
120 km

Distance from Nairobi
550 km

Size
39 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The coast is humid with mean annual temperatures ranging from 22-34°C rainfall is about 500 mm per annum

Major Attractions

Coral Gardens

Marine life: Comprises more than 250 recorded species, including fish, dolphins, sea turtles, whales, corals, sea



grass, and gastropods.

Birds: many seabirds in large nesting colonies and internationally significant numbers of crab-plover and roseate tern.

Access

Roads: 40 km from Mombasa via Diani and Kwale

Accommodation

The Shimoni Bandas, a picnic site, information centre

Best time to visit

All year round

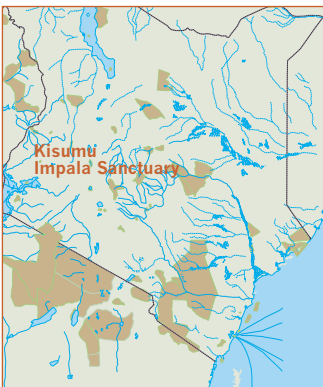
Activities

Swimming, sailing, snorkelling, diving

Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park is located on the south coast off Shimoni and south of Wasini Island in Kwale District on the south Kenyan coast near the Tanzanian border. The complex covers a marine area with four small islands surrounded by coral reef. Kisite island is a small waterless coral island, 8 km offshore in the Marine Park. Coral platforms around the raised central portion are exposed at low tide. The three other coral islets in the park (Mpunguti ya Juu, Mpunguti ya Chini and Liwe la Jahazi) lie closer to the larger Wasini Island, are scrub covered and support no significant wildlife or birds. The surrounding waters have well developed coral gardens and a large variety of fish.

KISUMU IMPALA SANCTUARY

WESTERN KENYA REGION



Contact details

PO Box 1193, Kisumu
Tel: +254 (0)57 21105, 44824
Email: kwsksmtel@vicwb.net

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Kisumu District, Nyanza Province

Distance from Nairobi
355 km

Size

Less than 1 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Hot and humid

Major Attraction

Impala, caged leopards, baboon

Wildlife

Wildlife: impala, leopard, hyena, jackal, ostrich and vervet monkey

Birds: over 115 species have been recorded

Access

Roads: Kisumu is located 355 km north of Nairobi, the sanctuary is 3 km from Kisumu near Hippo Point.

Air: The flight from Nairobi takes around one hour and there are regular flights



Water: Kisumu is linked by ferry with Kendu Bay, Homa Bay and Mbita

Accommodation

There is currently no accommodation in the reserve. Visitors can stay in Kisumu where there are various accommodation options.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Camping, walking, bird watching

When the East African Railway reached Kisumu early in the last century, the area must have been teeming with plains game. Over the passage of time hunting for food, ecosystem loss through human settlement and agriculture all reduced numbers vastly. By the early 1980s, what could be seen was a pitifully small herd of Impala that roamed the town and neighbouring areas.

The Sanctuary, a 0.4 square km of marsh, grassland and forest was created to provide a home for this herd of Impala. It then developed into a holding point for captured problem animals. Today, it provides grazing for hippos and habitat for numerous small mammals, and a variety of reptiles and birds. It also hosts two leopards, one spotted hyena, two olive baboons and several vervet monkeys held in captivity. Sightings of the reclusive and acutely threatened sitatunga have also been made.

KIUNGA MARINE NATIONAL RESERVE

AN ENCHANTED UNDERWATER WORLD

COASTLINE REGION



Contact details

PO Box 82, Lamu
Tel: +254 (0)42 633080,
633194
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Lamu District, Coast province

Distance from Malindi

372 km

Distance from

Nairobi
976 km

Size

250 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The coast is humid with mean annual temperatures ranging from 22-34°C. Rainfall is about 500 mm per annum

Major Attraction

Coral reefs, sand dune, Kiwayu Island

Wildlife

Reptiles/fish: sea turtles, olive ridley and leatherback turtles, reef fish

Insects/arthropods: lobsters, sea urchins, sea star, crabs, mosquito

Access

Roads: Kiunga is a remote, unspoilt village on the mainland



about 150 km east of Lamu

Airstrips: One at Dodori N. Reserve

By Sea: from Lamu access can be had to Kiwayu Island by dhow or speedboat

Accommodation

There is currently no accommodation in the reserve

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Wind surfing, snorkelling, water skiing, sunbathing, diving

The reserve incorporates a chain of about 50 calcareous offshore islands and coral reefs in the Lamu Archipelago, running for some 60 km parallel to the coast in northern Kenya and adjacent to Dodori and Boni National Reserves.

Composed of old, eroded coral, the islands lie around 2 km offshore and inshore of the fringing reef. They vary in size from a few hundred square metres to 100 hectares or more. Their walls rise sheer from the surrounding seabed and are usually deeply undercut on the landward side.

The larger islands and the more sheltered inner islands are covered with low, tangled thorny vegetation including grass, aloes and creepers. The outer islands provide nest sites for migratory seabirds. The reserve conserves valuable coral reefs, sea grass meadows and mangrove forests, with their attendant biodiversity and is also a refuge for sea turtles and dugongs.

KORA NATIONAL RESERVE

THE WILDERNESS LEGACY OF LEGENDARY LION MAN GEORGE ADAMSON

EASTERN REGION



Contact details

PO Box 11, Maua
Tel: +254 (0)64 20613
Cell: +254 (0)733 662439
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Coast region, Tana District

Distance from Nairobi

280 km to the north-east of Nairobi

Size

1,787 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Hot and dry with regular rainfall averaging 635-762mm of rain falling in March-May and November-December. Average temperature range between 24-31°C during the day and 15-18°C at night.

Major Attraction

Pristine wilderness, inselbergs, Tana River with Adamson's Falls, Grand Falls and Kora rapids, diverse birdlife, George Adamson's grave.

Wildlife

Hippo, leopard, lion, caracal and several antelope species.

Access

Roads: Kora is 280 km to the north-east of Nairobi. Access is via Thika to Mwingi then north-east through Kyuso village. A bridge across the Tana River joins the park with Meru National Park.

Airstrips: There is an airstrip that is used for by Reserve's administration. Another airstrip is about 10km away on the eastern side.

Accommodation

There is currently no accommodation in the reserve. Visitors can stay in the adjacent Meru National Park that has various accommodation options.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing, rock climbing, fishing in River Tana.



The Kora National Park was gazetted in 1973 as a reserve and gazetted as a park in 1990. It comprises of an area of a little over 1,700 square km. This triangle of dense woodland and scrub is limited along its 65 km northern boundary by the Tana River, which rises in the highlands between the Aberdares and Mount Kenya, before commencing its 700 km passage to the Indian Ocean. The western boundary follows a straight line from Tana River which a joint boundary with the adjacent Mwingi National Reserve, while the eastern boundary runs along Mwitamyisi River.

The land surface slopes gently from an altitude of 490 metres in the south-west and about 270 metres in the north-east. Central areas comprise an undulating peneplain through which basement ridges protrude above the surface as rocky inselbergs the highest of which are Mansumbi 488 metres, Kumbulanwa 450 metres and Kora Rock 442 metres. The park also has several seasonal rivers.

LAIKIPIA

NORTH RIFT REGION



straddling the equator at the heart of Kenya's Rift Valley Province. The Laikipia plains stretch from the Great Rift Valley to magnificent escarpments that descend into the Northern Frontier District.

Distance from Nairobi

190km to Nanyuki (Laikipia boundary)

Size

Spans an area of over 9,500 square km, and forms part of the 40,000 square km Ewaso ecosystem.

Park fees

Varies between conservancies

Climatic conditions

Mean annual rainfall varies from 400mm in the north-east to 900mm in the south-west. On average over 80 per cent of days are rain-free. The long rains from March to May are followed less rain between July and September, with cooler temperatures and high winds. The warmest months are December and January, which also have the least rainfall.

Contact details

Laikipia Wildlife Forum
PO Box 764
Nanyuki, 10400
Tel/Fax: +254 (0)62 31600
Email: info@laikipia.org

Contact person

Tourism Officer:
tourism@laikipia.org

Location

Laikipia District is a vast plateau to the north west of snow-capped Mount Kenya,

Wildlife

The diversity of large mammals is higher than any other area with elephant, rhino, Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, Lelwel hartebeest, wild dog and large numbers of other large predators.

Access

Road: access by road from Nairobi, Samburu, Nakuru.

Air: Nanyuki airfield is the hub for scheduled and charter flights linking Laikipia with destinations such as Samburu and the Masai Mara. Most tourism facilities in the region have private airfields for charter flights.

Accommodation

See www.laikipia.org/laikipia-safari.htm

Best time to visit

All months except April, May and November, during the rainy season

Activities

Wildlife related activities (day and night), walking, hiking, fishing, mountain climbing, mountain biking, camel and horse riding and fly camping.

Increasingly acknowledged as one of the most important areas for biodiversity in Kenya, wildlife population densities in the Laikipia region and Ewaso eco-system now rank second to the internationally renowned Masai Mara ecosystem, whilst the diversity of large mammals is higher than in any other part of Kenya.

The Ewaso eco-system is home to the second largest population of elephant in Kenya (5,400) and the area hosts the highest populations of endangered species in the country.

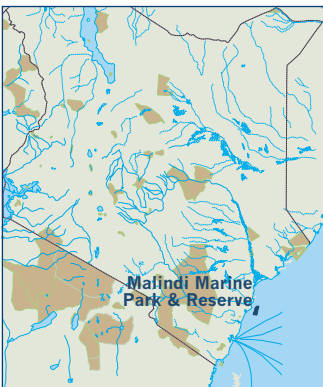
Laikipia supports seven heavily protected rhino sanctuaries, which together hold over half of Kenya's black rhino population.

Laikipia has a unique combination of dry and cool weather, climatic gradients being influenced by the presence of Mount Kenya (5,199 metres) and the Aberdare highlands (3,999 metres). There is great variation in rainfall from year to year.

MALINDI MARINE NATIONAL PARK & RESERVE

AFRICA'S OLDEST MARINE PARK, MAGIC ISLANDS, ZEBRA FISH

COASTLINE REGION



Size

213 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The coast is humid with mean temperatures from 22-34°C. Rainfall is about 500 mm per annum

Major attractions

Glass-bottomed boat tours, coral gardens, boat rides, diving, snorkelling, diving, ocean sports, under-water adventures, educational tours, picnic and island barbeques.

Wildlife

Turtles: Green, hawksbill, olive ridley, loggerhead. Green and hawksbill turtle breed in the Park; *Fishes:* Over 300 species of fish including: angelfish, barracuda, butterfly fish, goatfish, fusiliers, emperors, groupers, grunt/sweetlips, jacks, parrotfish, rabbit fish, sharks, snappers, surgeon fish, triggerfish and wrasses; *Invertebrates:* At least 135 species of gastro-

pods and 12 species of echinoids including: clams, crown of thorns, lobsters, octopus, sea anemone, sea cucumber, sea stars, sea urchins, crabs and shells; *Benthic cover:* 200 species of algae. A total of 55 genera and 145 species of hard coral have been recorded on the north reef; *Corals:* Boulder coral, organ pipe coral, sea grass, stag horn coral; *Birds:* Variety of migrant shore and terrestrial birds; *Mammals:* dolphins.

Access

Roads: 118 km tarmac road from Mombasa to Malindi
Airstrip: Malindi Airport

Accommodation

There are no lodges in the park. Visitors can stay in KWS self-catering accommodation or Malindi.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Wind surfing, snorkelling, water skiing, sunbathing, diving, swimming.

Malindi Marine Park and Reserve was the first marine protected area in Kenya, established in 1968 and designated as a Biosphere Reserve under the Man & Biosphere Reserve programme of UNESCO in 1979. The park is located south of Malindi town extending to Mida creek. It neighbours the Gede ruins and Arabuko Sokoke forest. The park is enveloped by a national reserve and a 100 ft strip of coastal land starting from Vasco-da-Gama pillar to Watamu. The reserve extends 3.5 nautical miles to seaward.

The park is endowed with magnificent resources such as fringing reefs, coral, sea grass, mangroves, mudflats, high fish diversity, marine mammals, turtles and shore-birds. The fringing reef is close to shore and exposed during low tide, but drops gradually to a sea grass bed that descends precipitously to the deep Barracuda Channel. North Reef has developed offshore and is the main focus of tourism activity.

Contact details

PO Box 109, Malindi
Tel: +254 (0)42 31554, 20845
Email: malindimarine@jambo.co.ke
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

North Coast, Malindi

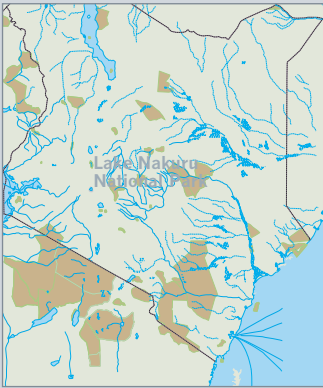
Distance from Mombasa

118 km

LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

THE BIRD WATCHER'S PARADISE

SOUTH RIFT REGION



Lake Nakuru is a shallow strongly alkaline lake set in a picturesque landscape of surrounding woodland and grassland. The landscape includes areas of marsh and grasslands alternating with rocky cliffs and outcrops, stretches of acacia woodland and rocky hillsides covered with a Euphorbia forest.

The lake's catchment is bounded by Menengai crater to the north, the Bahati hills to the north east, the lion hill ranges to the east, eburu crater to the south and the mau escarpment to the west. Three rivers, the Njoro, Makalia and Enderit drain into the lake.

Lake Nakuru was first gazetted as a bird sanctuary in 1960 and upgraded to National Park status in 1968. A northern extension was added to the park in 1974 and the lake was designated as a Ramsar site in 1990. The foundation of the park's food chains is the cyanophyte spirulina platensis which can support huge numbers of lesser flamingo. During peak season over one million flamingos congregate on the lake plus half a million pelicans. The Park also contains Kenya's largest population of rhinos.

The surface of the lake occupies about a third of the park. The lake supports a dense bloom of the blue-green Cyanophyte Spirulina platensis from which it derives its colour. It is a food source for flamingos.

The lake is fringed by alkaline swamps with areas of sedge, cyprus laevigatus and typha marsh along the river inflows and springs. The surrounding areas support a dry transitional savanna with lake margin grasslands.



Contact details

PO Box 539, Nakuru
Tel: +254 (0)51 221 7151,
221 7371
Email: kwslnnp@africaonline.co.ke
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Nakuru, Rift Valley Province

Distance from Nairobi

160 km

Size

188 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Warm and dry

Wildlife

Birds: Up to 1.5 million flamingos plus 450 other species of birds

Fauna: Includes Thompson's and Grant's gazelle, the rare long-eared leaf-nosed bat, colobus monkey, rock hyrax, hippo, leopard, lion, rhino, waterbuck, impala, gazelle, striped hyena, bat-eared fox, wild cat, reed-buck and golden cat.

Restocked mammals include:

lion, black and white rhino and the endangered Rothschild's giraffe.

Access

By Road: The park is 160 km north-west of Nairobi at Nakuru. From Nairobi take the A104 road (direction Naivasha). The main gate and the park headquarters is 4 km south of Nakuru town (from Kenyatta Avenue), take the Moi Road then turn left into Stadium Road which leads to the gate), Lanet Gate

Accommodation

Lodges: Sarova Lion Hill Lodge, Lake Nakuru Lodge

KWS self-catering accommodation: Naishi Guest House, Flamingo Guesthouse

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Bird watching, camping, picnic, finest views of the lake from Baboon Cliff, Lion Hill and Out of Africa Hill



MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

THE MARA-SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM IS THE WORLD'S GREATEST LARGE MAMMAL MIGRATION. THE TRANS MARA WILL MAKE A CRITICAL CONTRIBUTION TO MAINTAINING THIS SPECTACLE AND ECOSYSTEM FOREVER

SOUTH RIFT REGION



Covering an area of over 1,500 square km, the Masai Mara National Reserve is one of the most popular tourism destinations in Kenya. The reserve is located in the Great Rift Valley in primarily open grassland. Wildlife tends to be most concentrated on the reserve's western escarpment. The swampy land provides more access to water and less access to tourists. The eastern end is closest to Nairobi and hence easier to access by tourists.

The Masai Mara is regarded as the jewel of Kenya's wildlife viewing areas. The annual wildebeests migration alone involves over 1.5 million animals arriving in July and departing in November.

There have been some 95 species of mammals, amphibians and reptiles and over 400 birds species recorded on the reserve. Nowhere in Africa is wildlife more abundant, and it is for this reason a visitor hardly misses to see the big five (buffalo, elephant, leopard, lion, and rhino).

Other game include hippopotami, cheetah, Grant's gazelle, impala, topi, Coke's hartebeest, giraffe, Roan antelope and the nocturnal bat-eared fox.

However wildebeest are by far the dominant inhabitants of the Masai Mara. Their numbers are estimated in the millions. The Great Migration starts in July each year when well over one million wildebeest along with large numbers of Thompson's Gazelle, zebra and other herbivores migrate from the Serengeti plains in Tanzania to fresh pastures in the north and then back south again in October.



Contact details

PO Box 60, Narok
Tel: +254 (0)50 22068/22337
Fax: +254 (0)50 22412/22260
Email: mkoikai@hotmail.com

Contact person

Chief Park Warden – Michael Koikai

Location

Situated in south-western Kenya, it lies between latitude 1°00 south and longitude 34°45 and 36°00 east. It straddles both Narok and Transmara districts and lies about 105 miles south of the equator.

Distance from Nairobi

247 km south-west of Nairobi

Size

1,510 square km

Park fees

Contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Rainfall is bimodal with the main dry period from mid June to mid October and a shorter dry season during January and February. Long rains from March to June and the short rains from November to December. Rainfall is between 800 – 1200 mm. Maximum daily temperatures lies between 26°C and 30°C.

Wildlife

95 species of mammals, amphibians and reptiles and over 400 birds species have been recorded including annual wildebeests migration involving over 1.5 million animals.

Access

Road: Main roads are all weather. Game viewing trucks can only be used by four wheel drives during the rainy season. The main road from Mai mahiu to Narok is currently under construction.

Air: Three airstrips serve the Mara:- Keekorok, Olkiombo, and Musiara all of them murramed.

Accommodation

Two lodges, Keekorok and Sarova Mara, and four tented camps, Mara Intrepids, Explorer, Governors' Camp, Olmurrani, a number of seasonal camps/luxury mobile camps, Rekeru, Naibor, 4x4, Campfire.

Best time to visit

August to November





MARA TRIANGLE

Contact details

Mara Conservancy
PO Box 63457 – 00620, Nairobi
Tel: +254 (0)2 3749632
Fax: +254 (0)2 3749636
Email: mara@triad.co.ke
www.maraconservancy.com

Contact person

Brian Heath

Location

Trans Mara District - Western sector, Masai Mara.

Distance from Nairobi

300 km

Size

510 sq km



Park fees

Contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Altitude 5,300 feet (1,600 metres). Rainy season from November through May, with peak rainfall in December-January and April-May. Dry season from June-November. Often sunny mornings with cloud build-up in the afternoons – during the rains this develops into thunderstorms in the afternoon and

evening. Max temperatures up to 30°C and min temperatures around 20°C.

Wildlife

The Mara is known as one of the finest wildlife destinations in the World. There is an excellent chance of seeing the Big 5, cheetah, serval, hyena, bat-eared foxes, black-backed and side-striped jackals, hippo, crocodile, baboons, warthog, topi, eland, Thompson's ga-

zelle, Grant's gazelle, impala, waterbuck, oribi, reed-buck, zebra. During the migration (July to November) huge numbers of wildebeest move in.

Access

The Mara Triangle is serviced by two all-weather airstrips – Mara Serena and Kichwa Tembo. The main road access into the Triangle is through Narok and Sekenani Gate.

Accommodation

Mara Serena (150 beds) and Little Governors' Camp (36 beds) are the only two lodges situated in the Triangle. Kichwa Tembo, Mpata Club, Olonana, Mara Siria and Kilima Camp are situated on the periphery but use the Triangle.

Best time to visit

Peak season is between July and October, during the migration. Early November and February can also offer excellent game viewing.

Activities

Game viewing, camping, night game drives, visits to Masai cultural villages, ballooning, bush dinner, lunch and breakfast.



MARSABIT NATIONAL PARK

MISTED MONTANE PARADISE

NORTH RIFT REGION



Major Attractions

Pristine forest, scenic landscape and wilderness, crater lakes, diverse local cultures

Wildlife

Elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, greater kudu, hyena, aardwolf, caracal, klipspringer, Grant's gazelle, oryx, and reticulated giraffe. Diverse birdlife.

Access

By Road: 560 km north of Nairobi, 263 km north of Isiolo.

By Air: The park is located two and half hours by air from Nairobi and is served by a tarmac airstrip located 1 km from Marsabit town centre.

Accommodation

Lodges: Marsabit Lodge

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing, bird watching

Marsabit National Reserve covers an area of 1,500 square km and consists of a forested mountain that rises like an oasis in the middle of the desert wilderness and is the only source of permanent surface water in the region.

The reserve has three spectacular crater lakes that provide habitat for a variety of birdlife. One of the lakes, Lake Paradise, is most scenic and famous from early films and writings of Martin Johnson and Vivien de Wattville.

Marsabit reserve is also well known because of large elephants like the famous Ahmed, an elephant that was provided with a 24 hour protection by a presidential order. Ahmed, who boasted some of the biggest tusks ever recorded, died at age 55, and his body was preserved and is now on display in Nairobi National Museum.

Contact details

PO Box 42, Marsabit
Tel: +254 (0)69 2028,2279
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Marsabit District, Eastern Province

Distance from Nairobi

560 km north of Nairobi

Size

360 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

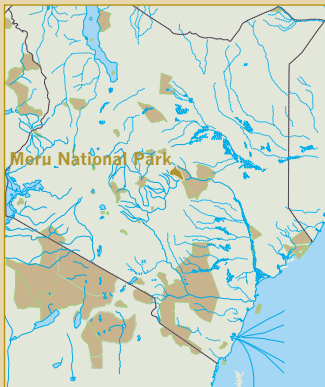
January to March is hot and dry, April to June is hot and wet, July to October is warm and dry, November and December are warm and wet.



MERU NATIONAL PARK

COMPLETE WILDERNESS

EASTERN REGION



Meru is a savanna National Park, 35 km east of Maua town in the north eastern lowlands below the Nyambeni hills. Meru is part of a complex of protected areas along the Tana river that includes the adjacent Bisanadi and Mwingi National Reserves, Kora National Park and Rahole National Reserve. The wetter North Western sector is hilly, with rich volcanic soils. The land flattens towards the east, where grey alluvial volcanic soils appear.

The area is crossed by numerous permanent streams, draining from the Nyambenes and flowing in parallel between tongues of lava, south eastwards towards the Tana River. As well as the many streams that cross it, the park is bounded by three large rivers: the Tana to the South, the Ura to the South West and the Rojoweru to the East. There are several prominent inselbergs of basement rock, notably Mughwango and Leopard Rock.

A section of the park has been designated as a wilderness area in which there are no roads. The park is part of the domain made famous by the writings of Joy Adamson.

Contact details

PO Box 11, Maua
Tel: +254 (0)164 20613
Cell: 0733 662439
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

East-north-east of Mount Kenya in Meru District of Eastern Province

Distance from Nairobi

348 km

Size

870 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Parks are part of Semi-arid zone and have irregular rainfalls. Wet seasons are April-June and November-December. Rainfall is 635-762 mm in the west and 305-356 mm in the east

Major Attractions

Former home of Joy and George Adamson and Elsa the lioness, views of Mount Kenya, rivers and riverine habitats, Tana River and Adamson's Falls.

Wildlife

Grevy's zebra, elephant, eland, bush pig, common waterbuck, cheetah, leopard, reticulated giraffe, hippopotamus, bohor reedbuck, hartebeest, python, puff adder, cobra, buffalo,



gerenuk, more than 300 recorded species of birds

Access

Roads: Access from Nairobi (348 km) is via Nyeri-Nanyuki-Meru or via Embu all weather roads. Access into the park from Maua to Murera Gate (35 km) and 348 km from Nairobi. The other access is via Embu to Ura Gate (120 km), 290 km from Nairobi – inaccessible at the moment

Airstrips: Main airstrip at Kina, Mulika next to Meru Mulika Lodge and Elsa's Kopje airstrip

Accommodation

Lodges: Elsa's Kopje, Leopard Rock Lodge

Kenya Wildlife Service Self-Catering Accommodation: Murera Bandas, Kinna Bandas

Special Campsites: Kampi Baridi; Kitanga, Makutano, Rojoweru, Mugung, Ken Mare and Kanjoo.

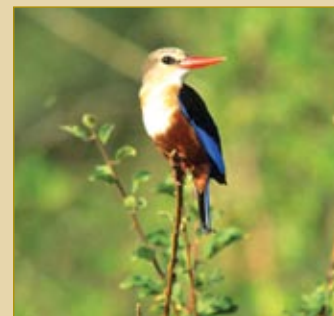
Public campsite: Bwatherongi

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Wildlife viewing, camping



MOMBASA MARINE NATIONAL PARK & RESERVE

COASTLINE REGION



Contact details

Tel: +254 (0)41 2312744/5
Email: info.kws@kwscoast.org or mombasamarine@kwscoast.org
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Lamu District, Coast province

Distance from Nairobi

487 km

Size

Park is 10 square km while the reserve is over 200 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The coast is humid with mean annual temperatures ranging from 22-34°C. Rainfall is about 500 mm per annum. The climatic conditions are hot and humid

Major Attractions

Beach, coral gardens, dive sites

Wildlife

Prolific marine life includes crabs, corals, sea urchins, jellyfish, sea stars, and sea cucumbers. Different varieties of coral species comprise of acropora, turbinaria and porites

Access

Roads: From Nairobi mainly use the Nairobi-Mombasa Highway

Air: 45 minute flight from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to Mombasa



Accommodation

There is currently no accommodation in the reserve. Visitors can stay in Mombasa where there are various accommodation options.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Wind surfing, snorkelling, water skiing, sunbathing, diving.

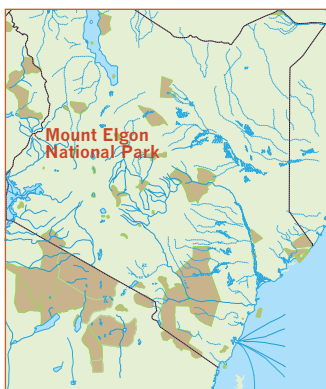
Both the park and reserve are the most highly utilised among marine protected areas. Their coastline is heavily developed with tourist facilities.

There are various agents who offer boats for hire to get into the Marine Park. There are quite a good number of companies offering water sports facilities. These firms are spread along the beach. The place is ideal for diving. Diving gear is readily available from water sports desks.

MOUNT ELGON NATIONAL PARK

UNTAMED WILDERNESS, SECLUDED SPLENDOUR

WESTERN KENYA REGION



Contact details

PO Box 753, Kitale
Tel: +254 (0)54 310456/7
Email: menp@swiftkenya.com
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

On the western border of Kenya with Uganda, in Trans-Nzoia District of Rift Valley Province.

Distance from Nairobi

420 km

Size

169 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The climate is moist to moderate dry. Annual rainfall is over 1,270 mm

Attractions

Together with the fauna and flora, the park is endowed with variety and breathtaking scenery of cliffs, caves, waterfalls, gorges, mesas, calderas, hot springs, and the mountain peaks

Wildlife

Elephant, leopard, giant forest hog, bushback, buffalo, duiker, black and white colobus, blue monkeys, and golden cat, among others.

Birds: More than 240 bird species in the area, including the African crowned eagle, Ross' turaco and red-fronted parrot.

Access

Road: Access is via tarmac road to Kitale, branch to murrum road and then to the Chorlim Gate. Two routes to the gate can be used, either via Endeless or take the tarmac road 15 km past Kitale and turn left onto a murrum road leading to the gate.

Accommodation

Lodges: Mount Elgon Lodge, 0.5 km outside the park gate

KWS Self-Catering Accommodation:

Kapkuro Bandas, Koitoboss Guesthouse, Kitum Guesthouse

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Vehicle circuits leading to animal viewing areas, the caves and Koitoboss peak; self-guided walking trails (ask for the Kitum Cave guide book at the gate); hiking to Endeless Bluff and Koitoboss Peak; primate and bird watching; cave explorations; camping; horse-riding; photography.

Mount Elgon is Kenya's second highest mountain. It lies 140 km north-east of Lake Victoria and is bisected by the Kenya-Uganda border. An ancient eroded volcano with a huge caldera, its summit has the spectacular flat-topped basalt column known as Koitobos. Another unique feature of the mountain is the lava tube caves, some over 60 metres wide and only caves in the world frequented by elephants (and other animals) digging for salts.

Mount Elgon National Park was gazetted in 1968 and covers a narrow transect on its north-eastern slopes. The remaining forest and moorland is part of the Mount Elgon Forest Reserve.



MOUNT KENYA NATIONAL PARK

NAMESAKE OF A NATION

CENTRAL KENYA REGION



Mount Kenya is an imposing extinct volcano dominating the landscape of the Kenyan Highlands. The mountain has two main peaks – Batian (5,200 metres) and Nelion (5,188 metres). The mountain slopes are cloaked in forest, bamboo, scrub and moorland giving way on the high central peaks to rock, ice and snow. Mount Kenya is an important water catchment area, supplying the Tana and Northern Ewaso Ngiro systems.

The park includes a variety of habitats ranging from higher forest, bamboo, alpine moorlands, glaciers, tarns and glacial moraines.

The Park, which was inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1997 and is also a Biosphere Reserve, covers 715 square km, and includes the peaks consisting of all the ground above 3,200 metres with two small salients extending lower down to 2,450 metres along the Sirimon and Naro Moru tracks. Surrounding the park is Mount Kenya National Reserve with an area of approximately 2,095 square km.



Contact details

PO Box 753 Nyeri
Tel: +254 (0)61 55645, 55201
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

East of the Rift Valley. Mount Kenya lies about 140 km north-north-east of Nairobi with its northern flanks across the Equator.

Distance from Nairobi

140 km

Size

715 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Climate, flora and fauna on Mount Kenya varies with altitude

Major attractions

Pristine wilderness, lakes, tarns, glaciers and peaks of great beauty, geological variety, forest, mineral springs, rare and endangered species of animals, high altitude adapted plains game. Unique montane and alpine vegetation with 11 species of endemic plants.

Wildlife

Giant forest hog, tree hyrax, white-tailed mongoose, elephant, black rhino, suni, black-fronted duiker, mole-rat and over 130 species of bird

Access

Access Roads: 175 km from Nairobi, the park can be reached on Nanyuki-Isiolo road via Sirimon Track or Nyeri-Nanyuki road near Naro Moru. The park is also reachable via Chogoria on the Embu-Meru road, about 150 km north of Nairobi.

Airstrips: The closest commercial airstrip to the park is at Nanyuki

Accommodation

Lodges: There is currently no lodge in the park. Various lodges offer accommodation in the region.

KWS self-catering accommodation: Batian Guesthouse, Sirimon Bandas

In addition there are various bunkhouses and climbing huts are on the climbing route.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities:

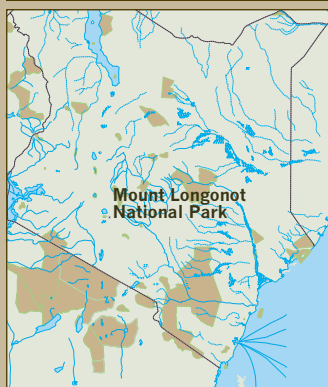
Mountain climbing, wildlife viewing, camping, cave exploration.



MOUNT LONGONOT NATIONAL PARK

SHEER ADVENTURE

CENTRAL KENYA REGION



Contact details

PO Box 234-20117, Naivasha
Tel: +254 (0)50 50255
Email: hellsgatenp@kenyweb.com
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Naivasha, Rift Valley Province

Distance from Nairobi

90 km

Size

52 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Hot and dry

Major attractions

Extinct volcano and crater forest, scenic landscape, views of Lake Naivasha and the Great Rift Valley.

Access

Road: The park is accessible via tarmac road from Nairobi. From Naivasha town, take the lower (old) Nairobi-Naivasha road in the direction of Nairobi until you reach the Longonot railway level crossing. Turn right after the crossing and follow the track for 4km to the Park Gate and KWS offices. Vehicles may be left in a car park 1km after the gate.

Accommodation

Although there is no accom-

The name Longonot is derived from the Maasai word Oloonong'ot meaning mountains of many spurs or steep ridges. Longonot park covers 52 square km most of it being occupied by Mt. Longonot – a young volcano rising to 2,776 metres above sea level. The sides of the mountain have beautiful V-shaped valleys and ridges. The stony soils have little vegetation but the crater has an impenetrable forest.

Due to the nature of the terrain Mount Longonot has no roads and visitors hike to the top and rim of the crater.

modation available in the park, a wide range of accommodation options are available in nearby Naivasha, and there are lodges and hotels around Lake Naivasha.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Finest views of Lake Naivasha and the Great Rift Valley, hiking.

MWEA NATIONAL RESERVE

AN UNDISCOVERED OASIS OF TRANQUILITY

EASTERN REGION



Size

42 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Semi-arid with an annual rainfall of 510-760 mm per annum

Major attractions

Game viewing; boat rides at Kamburu dam; hippo point; realm of rare birds; walking circuit

Wildlife

Elephant, lesser kudu, Nile crocodile, hippo, giraffe, Burchell's zebra, buffalo, leopard, grey duiker, black-backed jackal, bushbuck, waterbuck, olive baboon, Sykes' monkey, serval cat, spotted hyena, warthog, rock hyrax, bush pig, impala and hartebeest. Rare animals including stripped ground squirrel, genet, black-backed jackal, yellow baboons, are also found in Mwea

Birds: over 200 species of birds. Mwea is renowned for its water birds and waders. The

only protected area in which the globally threatened and Kenya-endemic Hinde's babbler is known to occur, the Reserve also shelters two other rare species; Pel's fishing owl and the white-backed night heron.

Access

Road: From Nairobi via Thika-Matuu-Masinga Dam (160 km). This route is surfaced until Masinga Dam Bridge – a further 10 km of dirt road lies between here and Makima Gate. Access is also possible via Embu-Machanga.

Air: Masinga airstrip near Masinga Lodge. By Air: Masinga Airstrip near Masinga Lodge

Accommodation

There are no lodges, tented camps or self-catering accommodation options in Mwea Reserve. Masinga Lodge is located at Masinga Dam outside the Reserve.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing, bird watching.

The reserve was gazetted in 1976 covering an area north-west of Kamburu Dam at the confluence of Tana and Thiba rivers. Two islands within Kamburu dam (constructed in 1976) are in the protected area.

On the southern boundary is the Tana River, the eastern is the Thiba River and the northern boundary is an electric fence that stops animals from invading Makima settlements.

The earliest human settlement in Makima dates from 1914, though wildlife conservation intervention was not until 1972. Mwea National Reserve is today co-managed between Kenya Wildlife Service and Mbeere County Council.

Mwea National Reserve Trust was founded in 1991 with the aim of soliciting funds to develop the reserve. Quite a number of projects have been funded through donations including a boat and outboard engine, energy saving jikos and translocating zebras.

Contact details

PO Box 8-60113, Kiritiri, Embu
Tel: +254 (0)68 20301
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Mbeere District, Eastern Province

Distance from Nairobi

160 km north-east of Nairobi

MWINGI NATIONAL RESERVE

EASTERN REGION



Contact details
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person
Senior Warden

Location
Mwingi District, Eastern Province

Distance from Nairobi
350 km north-east of Nairobi

Size
745 square km



Park fees
Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions
The climate is hot and dry

Major Attraction
Wilderness habitat; game viewing; Adamson's Falls; fishing and boating on Tana River; Kampi ya Simba – former home of Joy and George Adamson and the grave of Elsa the lioness.

Wildlife
Caracal, elephant, hippo, leopard, lion and several antelope species among others.

Access
Roads: The reserve can be accessed via Thika to Mwingi then north-east through Kyuso village, or from Meru National Park through Adamson's Bridge via Kora National Park.

Accommodation
There is currently no accommodation in the reserve

Best time to visit
All year round

Activities
Game viewing, fishing in River Tana, bird watching, boating.

Mwingi National Reserve is one of four protected and contiguous areas that comprise the 4,400 square km Meru Conservational Area (MCA). The other three are Meru National Park, Bisanadi National Reserve and Kora National Park.

Mwingi borders all three and is the least accessible. Mwingi has been designated a Wilderness Activity Zone by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) which allows for fly camping, camel and horse-back safaris as opportunities for traditional game viewing are extremely limited. Formerly known as Kitui National Reserve and located in Kitui District, Mwingi covers 745 sq km and is little visited by tourists. However, efforts are underway to improve the area's road access.

The reserve is administered by Mwingi County Council. Wildlife populations are low, but there are hippo, crocodile, buffalo and warthog. Areas of the reserve have been encroached by settlements and permanent agriculture.

NAIROBI ANIMAL ORPHANAGE

HOME TO ORPHANED AND SICK ANIMALS

NAIROBI REGION



Contact details
PO Box 42076
Tel: +254 (0)20 602121, 603769
Fax: +254 (0)20 600324
Email: education@kws.org
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person
Senior Warden

Location
Nairobi Province

Distance from Nairobi
7 km

Park fees
Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions
January-March is hot and dry, April-June is hot and wet, July-October is very warm and wet.

Major Attraction
Bonding with orphaned animals; up-close animal view; play with the cheetah

Wildlife
Wildlife: Lion, cheetah, hyena, jackal, serval, very rare sokoke cats, warthog, ostrich, leopard, various monkeys, baboon, buffalo

Birds: Parrot, guinea fowl, crown crane

Access
Roads: Located only about 7 km from the city centre,

the animal orphanage is easily accessible on tarmac roads, off Lang'ata Road, Kenya Wildlife Service headquarters.

Accommodation
Visitors to the Animal Orphanage can stay in various lodges and hotels located in Nairobi City Centre.

Best time to visit
All year round

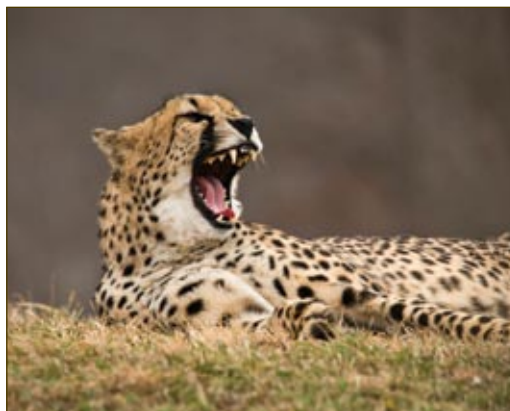
Activities
Up-close viewing of wildlife

Established in 1964 as a refuge and rehabilitation centre for wild animals found abandoned or injured throughout Kenya, the unique facility records over 200,000 thousand visitors every year.

Animals received at the facility, undergo a thorough medical examination, followed by treatment where that is called for, before entering into an appropriate feeding and rehabilitation program.

Nairobi Animal Orphanage is the oldest animal orphanage in Kenya and set in Nairobi National Park with lush vegetation contrasting against the red dust and clay of the soil.

This important educational and training facility, which is housed, in the only wildlife protected area in a capital city in the world is often home to more than 20 different animals and bird species.



NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

THE WORLD'S ONLY WILDLIFE CAPITAL

NAIROBI REGION



Nairobi National Park is unique by being the only protected area in the world with a variety of animals and birds close to a capital city. The park is a principal attraction for visitors to Nairobi.

The park also serves many residents and citizens living in the city. It has a diversity of environments with characteristic fauna and flora. Open grass plains with scattered acacia bush are predominant. The western side has a highland dry forest and a permanent river with a riverine forest in the south. In addition, there are stretches of broken bush country and deep, rocky valleys and gorges with scrub and long grass. Man-made dams also attract water dependent herbivores during the dry season.

The park has a rich/diverse birdlife with 400 species recorded. However all species are not always present and some are seasonal. Northern migrants pass through the park primarily during late March through April.

Nairobi National Park is one of the most successful of Kenya's rhino sanctuaries that is already generating a stock for reintroduction in the species former range and other upcoming sanctuaries. Due to this success, it is one of the few parks where a visitor can be certain of seeing a black rhino in its natural habitat.

To the south of the park is the Athi-Kapiti Plains and Kitengela Migration and dispersal area. These are vital areas for herbivores dispersal during the rains and concentrate in the park in the dry season.

Contact details

PO Box 42076
Tel: +254 (0)20 602121, 603769
Fax: +254 (0)20 600324
Email: nnp@kws.go.ke
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Nairobi Province

Distance from Nairobi

7 km

Size

117 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

January-March is hot and dry, April-June is hot and wet; July-October is very warm and wet.

Major Attraction

Black rhinoceros; diverse birdlife; large predators – lion, leopard, hyena and cheetah; aggregations of large herbivores – eland, buffalo, zebra and wildebeest; Ivory Burning Site Monument; walking trails at hippo pools; Nairobi Safari



Walk and the Orphanage; spacious picnic sites

Wildlife

Over 80 recorded species to include rhino, buffalo, lion, leopard, crocodile and hippo (no elephants)

Birds: more than 400 species

Access

Roads: Located only about 7 km from the city centre, the Park is easily accessible on tarmac

roads, mainly through Lang'ata Road.

Accommodation

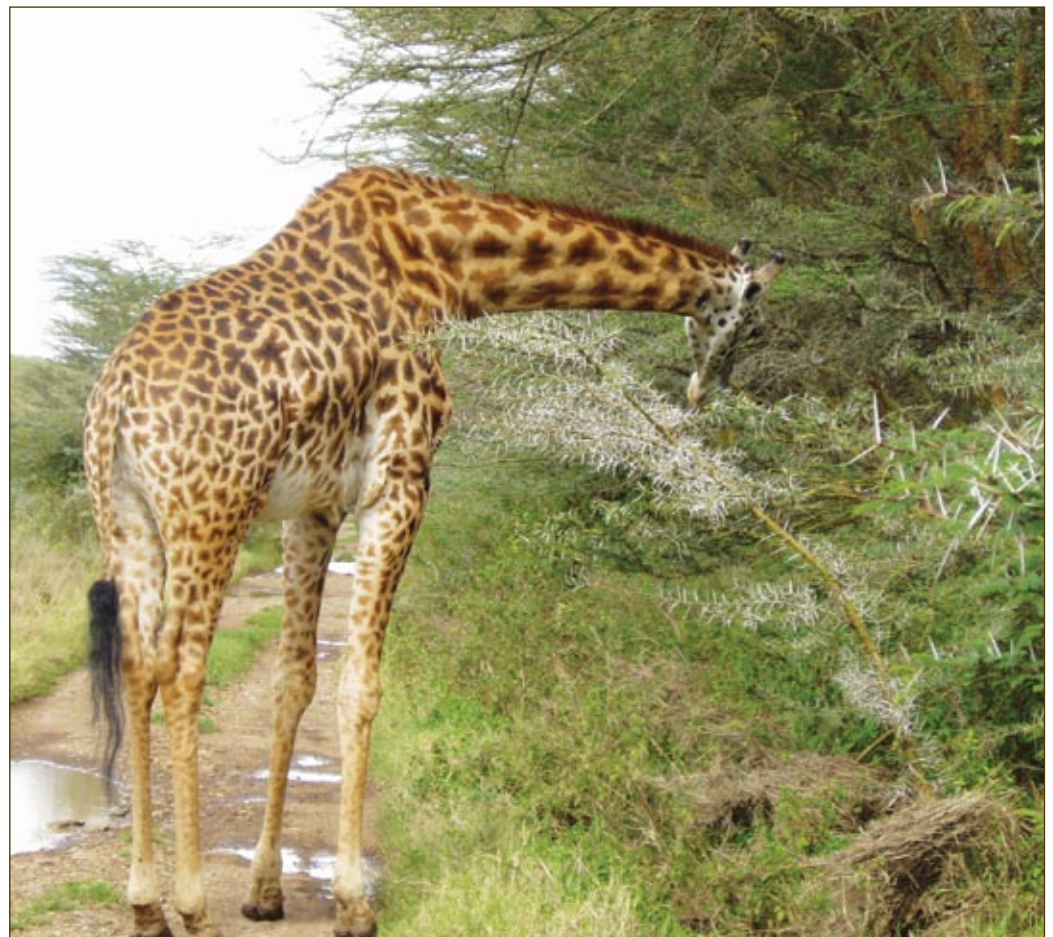
There is currently no accommodation in the reserve. Visitors can stay in Nairobi city which offers various accommodation options.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Wildlife viewing, picnic activities.



NAIROBI SAFARI WALK

A REFUGE FOR THE WILD

NAIROBI REGION



Only 7 km south of Nairobi lies the Nairobi Safari Walk, Kenya's conservation based recreation facility. The combination of skilled and creative landscape design, unique wildlife species and detailed interpretation, renders the facility supremacy in tourism and conservation education.

With a combination of three simulated, forests, wetlands and savannahs, visitors have an opportunity to learn about these valuable resources and how they can contribute to its conservation. Some unique plants and animals that are locally extinct or threatened are also displayed. This is the place to learn how to take part in wildlife conservation quest.

The Nairobi Safari Walk is an eye opener to Kenya's Parks and Reserves. It offers an opportunity to learn what to expect to see across the country. Introductory talks on Kenya's parks and reserves, can be arranged by naturalists. Experience a taste of Kenya's rich animal collection including the rare bongo, white rhino, albino zebra, a collection of cats, antelopes and primates. NSW is also home to a collection of about 150 species of local trees. Get to learn their varied traditional uses too.

The unique design of the Safari Walk includes the interest of all visitors, families, students, tourists, and all others are catered for.



Contact details

PO Box 42076
Tel: +254 (0)20 602121, 603769
Fax: +254 (0)20 00324
Email: nsw@kws.go.ke
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Nairobi Province

Distance from Nairobi

7 km

Size

117 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

January-March is hot and dry, April-June is hot and wet, July-October is very warm and wet.

Major Attraction

Three major ecosystems namely wetlands, savannah and forest ecosystems; variety of mammals, reptiles, insects and birds; The boardwalk; Children Museum

Wildlife

Lion, cheetah, leopard, crocodile, pygmy hippo, zebra and albino zebra, buffalo, colobus monkey, ostrich, bongo, oryx, tortoises, turtle, rhino

Birds: wide variety of birds and insects

Access

Roads: Located only about 7 km from the city centre, the Nairobi Safari Walk is easily accessible on tarmac roads, off Lang'ata Road, Kenya Wildlife Service headquarters.

Accommodation

Visitors can stay in various lodges and hotels located in Nairobi City Centre.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

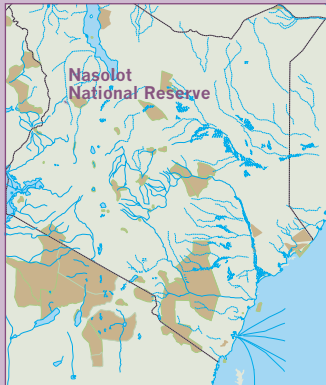
Walking Safari, wildlife viewing, Children's Museum, guided walk, talks and lectures, tree identification, nursery techniques



NASOLOT NATIONAL RESERVE

A SCENIC MASTERPIECE

NORTH RIFT REGION



Contact details

PO Box 62, Kapenguria
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

West Pokot District, Rift Valley Province

Distance from Nairobi

528 km north-west of Nairobi

Size

92 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Hot and arid

Major Attractions

Rocky out crop at the periphery of the reserve called Nasolot Hill; game viewing.

Wildlife

Elephant, lesser kudu, bush-buck, duiker, lion, leopard, Kirk's dik-dik, spotted hyena, jackal, impala, Sykes' monkey,

beisa and fringe-eared oryx, waterbuck, olive baboon, buffalo, gazelle and hippo.

Access

Road: The reserve is 146 km north of Kitale to the west of the A1 Kitale-Lodwar road. The reserve's gate lies 6.2 km off the A1 main road.

Air: There are air strips at Turkwell dam and Kaputirr

Accommodation

There are no accommodation options in the reserve. However self-catering accommodation and a campsite is available at the Marich Pass Field Studies Centre located 80 km south of the reserve off the A1 Kitale-Lodwar road.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing, bird watching, sport fishing and boating at Turkwell dam, nature walks, camping.



Nasolot National Reserve was gazetted in 1979 and consists 9,200 hectares of beautifully rugged land. It is located to the north of Mount Melo at over 3,000 metres. There are some spectacular views to be had, although most of the reserve is plains. Because of its remote location there are few visitors.

NDERE ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

WESTERN KENYA REGION



Contact details

PO Box 1193 Kisumu
Tel: +254 (0)57 21105
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Kisumu District of Nyanza Province

Distance from Nairobi

432 km

Size

4.2 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Hot and humid

Attractions and wildlife

Ndere Island; game viewing; African fish eagles; hippopotamus; Nile crocodiles; impalas

Access

Road: Access to the park can be by road or boat from Kisumu

Air: Kisumu Airport is 60 km away

Accommodation

Kenya Wildlife Service: two campsites

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

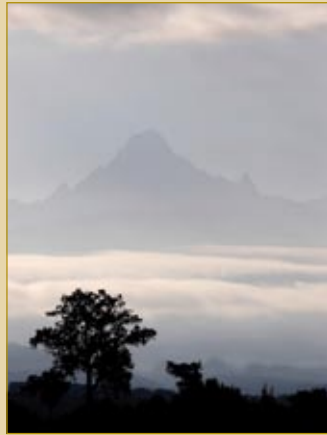
Walking, game viewing

Ndere Island, a newly gazetted park, is an island just off the northern shore of Lake Victoria and was opened in November 1986. Ndere means 'meeting place' in the language of the local Luo tribe. According to the Luo folklore, Kit Mikayi, mother of the tribe, rested up near Ndere after her long journey south down the Nile valley. She found the lush shorelines so pleasing that she and her people stayed.

OL DONYO SABUK NATIONAL PARK

ULTIMATE PANORAMIC EXPERIENCE

EASTERN REGION



Contact details
PO Box 1514, Thika
Tel: +254 (0)67 435 5257
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person
Senior Warden

Location
Machakos District, Eastern Province

Distance from Nairobi
85 km north-east of Nairobi

Size
20.7 square km

Park fees
Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions
Hot and dry

Major attractions
Fourteen Falls; scenic views of Mount Kenya from the summit; McMillan grave (of Sir William

Northrup McMillan (1872-1925) and his wife Lady Lucie); camping facilities

Access
Road: From Thika proceed 22 km along the main Garissa road to Makutano junction. At Makutano follow the KWS sign and turn right, proceeding 3 km on all-weather murram road to Donyo town. At Donyo turn right and proceed a further 2 km to the main gate.

Accommodation
Kenya Wildlife Service Self-Catering Accommodation: Sabuk House

Best time to visit
All year round

Activities
Game viewing, bird watching, camping and picnicking.

A rugged, hump-backed outcrop of ancient rock jutting high above the Athi Plains and hazily visible from Nairobi, Ol Donyo Sabuk is a densely forested mountain known to the local Kikuyu as 'The Mountain of the Buffalo', and to the Maasai as 'The Big Mountain'. Just one road leads to its summit, which offers magnificent 360° panoramas over the Athi River, the pineapple fields of Thika and the snow-capped peaks of both Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya. Within easy reach of Nairobi, the lush vegetation and cool air of this compact and scenic National Park make for an ideal day trip or camping weekend.

RUMA NATIONAL PARK

LAST RETREAT OF THE ROAN ANTELOPE

WESTERN KENYA REGION



Size
120 square km

Park fees
Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions
Hot and humid

Major Attractions
Game Viewing

Wildlife
Roan antelope which is not found anywhere else in Kenya, oribi, mountain reedbeek, leopard, buffalo, Jackson's hartbeest, Rothschild's giraffe, serval, hyena, impala and vervet monkey, savannah grassland and woodland with extensive acacia thickets and more than 400 recorded species of birds.

Access
Road: From Nairobi the most direct route to Ruma NP is via Nakuru, Kericho and Kisii. From Kisii proceed in a southerly direction on the main A1 road to Rongo, a distance of 34 km. At Rongo turn to the right and proceed 27 km to Rodi Kopany.

Then turn left and head for Migori, a distance of 20 km. At Migori follow signs to the park, entering at Kamato main gate

Accommodation
Kenya Wildlife Service Self-Catering Accommodation: Oribi Guesthouse

Campsites: Kamato and Nyati Campsites

Best time to visit
All year round

Activities
Game viewing, bird watching, camping

Ruma was first gazetted in 1966 as Lambwe valley game reserve and acquired national park status in 1983.

The park was established mainly to protect the roan antelope which does not occur anywhere else in the country.

The soils are largely black cotton clay. The surrounding area is settled, with a mix of small scale cultivation and grassy pasture land.

Contact details
PO Box 420, Homa Bay
Tel: +254 (0)59 22544
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person
Senior Warden

Location
Ruma National park is situated in Suba District, Nyanza Province

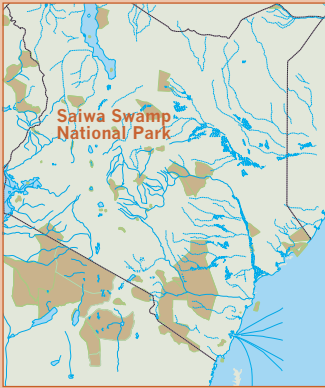
Distance from Nairobi
425 km



SAIWA SWAMP NATIONAL PARK

SANCTUARY OF THE SITATUNGA ANTELOPE

WESTERN KENYA REGION



Contact details

PO Box 4506 Kitale
Email:
kwssnp@africanonline.co.ke
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Trans Nzoia District, Rift Valley
Province

Distance from Nairobi

385 km

Size

2.9 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact
tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The Park has a typical African
wetland climate, ranging from
warm to cool humid to semi-
arid.

Major Attractions

Sitatunga aquatic antelope;
game viewing; bird watching;
trail walking

Wildlife

Sitatunga, monkeys, otter,
genet, serval, mongoose,
bushback and ratel (or honey
badger).

Birds: over 372 species includ-
ing such rarities as Ross' turaco
and blue-headed coucal.

Access

Road: The park lies 27 km
north of Kitale on the Kitale-
Lodwar tarmac road. Approach-
ing Kitale from the direction of
Eldoret or Bungoma, turn right

at Kitale Museum and follow
the road into a left hand bend.
After 0.5 km turn right and
follow signs for Kapenguria and
Lodwar. After 1.5 km turn left
onto the A1 Lodwar Road and
proceed for 18 km to Kipsaina
where there is a sign to Saiwa
Swamp NP. Turn right at the
sign and follow the murrum
road for 6.5 km to the park's
only gate-Saiwa Gate.

Accommodation

Sirikwa Guesthouse and Camp-
site

*Kenya Wildlife Service Self-Cater-
ing Accommodation:* Tree Top
House.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing, bird watching,
camping, picnicking, nature
walks

Saiwa is the smallest park in
Kenya, only 3 square km. It
was established to protect the
semi-aquatic sitatunga ante-
lope and encloses the swamp
fed by the Saiwa river together
with its fringing belts of rain
forest. The park is enclosed by
subsistence farming settle-
ments.

Vegetation is a mixture of
forest and swamp vegetation.
The swamp is dominated by
tall bullrushes and sedges.
The swamp is bordered by a
mixture of grassland, riverine
forests and acacia.



SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

EASTERN REGION



Contact details

Samburu National Reserve,
PO Box 519
Isiolo
Tel/Fax: +254 (0)64 30249
Email: samburucc@wananchi.com
www.samburucouncil.com

Contact person

Chief Park Warden:
Email: snrgerenuk@yahoo.com

Location

Samburu National Reserve is situated at the southern corner of Samburu District in the Rift Valley Province of Kenya. It is bordered to the south by Uaso Nyiro River, which separates it from the Buffalo Springs National Reserve.

Size

The reserve covers an area of 165 square km

Distance from Nairobi

345 km to Archer's Gate (main entrance to Samburu National Reserve)

Park fees

Contact tour operator.

Climatic Conditions

Arid and semi-arid with hot days and cool nights. Annual mean temperature between 18° C and 30°C. Annual mean rainfall is 345 mm with peaks in November and April.

Wildlife

Rich in game with many rare species. Game includes Grevy's zebra, Somali ostrich, reticulated giraffe, gerenuk, beisa oryx, elephants, lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dogs and over 450 species of birds.

Access

Road: The reserve can be accessed to by road from Nairobi through Isiolo on all weather bitumen while Isiolo Archers Post is gravelled. The road section distance from Isiolo to Archer's gate is 34.3 km.

Air: The reserve has an airstrip that is the Oryx Samburu Airstrip.

Accommodation

The reserve houses a number of visitor facilities including:

Lodges: Samburu Game Lodge, Samburu Larsen's Camp, Samburu Sopa, Samburu Intrepids, Elephant Bedroom, Elephant Watch Safaris, Miiba Mingi Tented Lodge

Permanent campsites: Game-trackers, Lion King Safaris

Special campsites: Doom Palm Campsite, Von derdecken (Hornbill) Campsite, Grevy Campsite, Impala Campsite

Public Campsites: Vervet Monkey, Butterfly, Kigelia, Kingfisher

Best time to visit

All year round.

Activities

There are various activities that visitors can engage in while residing at the reserve. These activities include: game drives, bird watching, sundowners, bush breakfast, nature walks, river rafting (depending on the river water level) and the Samburu cultural experience.

Samburu National Reserve is one of the lesser-known national parks, but is nevertheless teeming with life. Situated alongside the Ewaso Nyiro River, there is plenty to attract wildlife from the surrounding savannah plains.

The reserve lies within ecological zone V – which is classified as arid and semi-arid with a moisture index of 42 to 57, which indicates that evapo-transpiration is greater than available moisture. The days are extremely hot while the nights are cool. The annual mean temperatures range between 18° C and 30°C, while the mean annual rainfall is 345 mm with peaks in November and April. The dry season starts in late May, and goes up to early October when a large concentration of wildlife is found in the reserve due to availability of lush vegetation along the Ewaso Nyiro River, the main source of water to the Reserve and the nearby communities.

The reserve is rich in wildlife with an abundance of rare northern specialist species such as the Grevy's zebra, Somali ostrich, reticulated giraffe, gerenuk and the beisa oryx (also referred to as Samburu Special Five). The reserve is also popular with a minimum of 900 elephants. Large predators such as the lion, leopard and cheetah are an important attraction (Kamunyak the miracle lioness that adopted the baby oryx is a resident in the reserve).

Wild dog sightings are also a common attraction to this unique protected area. Birdlife is abundant with over 450 species recorded. Birds of the arid northern bush country are augmented by a number of riverine forest species. The Lesser Kestrel and the Taita Falcon are species of global conservation concern and they both utilise the reserve. Five species categorized as vulnerable have also been recorded in the reserve. These are the African darter, great egret, white-headed vulture, martial eagle and the yellow-billed ox-pecker. The critically endangered pancake tortoise (*malacochersus tornieri*) is also found in the reserve.



SHIMBA HILLS NATIONAL RESERVE

LAST OF THE COASTAL RAINFORESTS, SANCTUARY OF THE SABLE ANTELOPE

COASTLINE REGION



Contact details

PO Box 30, Kwale
Tel: +254 (0)40 4159, 4166
Email: sable@africaonline.co.ke
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

The reserve is approximately 33 km south of Mombasa, in Kwale district of Coast Province



Size

250 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The climate is hot and moist but cooler than that the coast with strong sea breezes and frequent mist and cloud in early morning. Annual rainfall is 855-1,682 mm. Mean annual temperatures is 24.2°C.

Major attractions

Scenic landscape comprising hills and valleys extending beyond the Reserve boundaries; coastal rainforest; Sheldrick's Falls.

Wildlife

Sable, elephant, buffalo, water-buck, reedbuck, hyena, warthog and bush pig, giraffe, leopard, baboon plus Sykes', black-faced vervet monkey and Angola colobus monkey, serval, Harvey's duiker and suni. Introduced species include Maasai giraffe and ostrich.

Access

Road: The Reserve's main access is via Diani - 56 km from Mombasa.

Air: 1.5 km airstrip. Regular flights also at Ukunda airstrip at Diani Beach and at Moi International Airport in Mombasa.

Accommodation

Lodges: Shimba

Kenya Wildlife Service

Self-Catering Accommodation: Sable Bandas

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing, potential for bird-shooting outside the reserve, walking safaris

Shimba Hills were gazetted as a National Forest in 1903, grassland areas were incorporated in 1924 and several subsequent extensions took place to bring the reserve to its present size. In 1968 most of the reserve was double gazetted as the Shimba Hills National Reserve. Two smaller areas to the west adjoining the reserve and almost entirely forested remain as Forest Reserves; Mkongani North and Mkongani West Forest Reserve.

A fenced elephant corridor connects the Shimba Hills with Mwaluganje Forest Reserve to the North.

The Shimba Hills are a dissected plateau that ascends steeply from the coastal plains, 30 km south west of Mombasa and just south of Kwale town. The surrounding escarpment rises from around 120 metres to 300 metres across the bulk of the plateau and as high as 450 metres at Marare and Pengo hills.

SIBILOI NATIONAL PARK

CRADLE OF MANKIND, GARDEN OF EDEN

NORTH RIFT REGION



Contact details

PO Box 219, Lodwar
Tel: +254 (0)54 21223
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Lake Turkana, Marsabit District, Eastern Province

Distance from Nairobi

800 km north of Nairobi

Size

1,570 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Hot and arid

Major attractions

Origins of Man: Koobi Fora Museum & Research Base; thousands of fossils including giant tortoises; Behemoth, 45ft long Crocodile; Lake Turkana Scenery; shoreline; game viewing.

Wildlife

Birdwatching: More than 350 recorded species including flamingo, pelican and duck.

Hippo, crocodile, zebra, Grant's gazelle, reticulated giraffe, beisa oryx, topi, greater kudu, lion, cheetah, leopard among other species.

The world's largest Nile crocodile population breeds on Lake Turkana's Central Island.

Access

Road: The lake is a three day drive from Nairobi via Marsabit and North Horr, or Maralal and South Horr. Alternatively travel by road from Nairobi to Kalokol on the lake's western shores, via Kitale and Lodwar. From Kalokol boat hire services are available across the lake to Allia Bay.

Air: There are two all-weather airstrips.

Accommodation

Lodges and tented camps: Oasis Lodge, Lobolo Tented Camp

KWS self-catering accommodation: Allia Bay Guesthouse

Campsites: Turkana Campsite, Sunset Strip Camp

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing, bird watching, camping.

Sibiloi National Park covers 1,570 square km of wilderness scenic landscape on the shores of Lake Turkana. The park was partially established through the initiative of National Museums of Kenya to protect unique prehistoric and archeological sites some of which are linked to the origin of man. The fossils include a crocodile euthecodon brumpti, giant tortoise petusios broadleyi, elephant elephas recki and the petrified forest. The terrain is lake shore, dry semi desert bush and near desert country. The park is waterless apart from the alkaline waters of the lake.

SOUTH AND CENTRAL ISLAND NATIONAL PARKS

KINGDOM OF THE CROCODILE

NORTH RIFT REGION



Contact details

PO Box 219 Lodwar
Tel: +254 (0)54 21223
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Lake Turkana, Marsabit District, Eastern Province. Most northerly of the Great Rift Valley lakes

Distance from Nairobi

800 km

Size

44 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Hot and arid (especially December-March) June and July are the coolest months. May-September very strong winds in morning and evening. Rainfall less than 250 mm per annum. In some places it may not rain for several years

Major attraction

Three crater lakes - Crocodile Lake, Flamingo Lake, and Tilapia Lake; Active volcano; venomous reptiles and pre-historic fish

Wildlife

Reptiles/fish: estimated 12,000 crocodiles, saw-scaled viper, night and puff adder, cobra

Birdlife: Over 84 water-bird species and various birds of prey

Access

Roads: 800 km from Nairobi to Lake Turkana, then take a boat from Sibiloi National Park or from

Lodwar. Access from Nairobi is by the main Nairobi-Moyale road or from Maralal to Loiengalani through Baragoi and South Horr.

Airstrips: Two airstrips at Sibiloi.

Accommodation

Lodges and Tented Camps: Oasis Lodge, Lobolo Tented Camp

KWS Self-Catering accommodation: Allia Bay Guesthouse

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Crocodile hatching, viewing, camping.



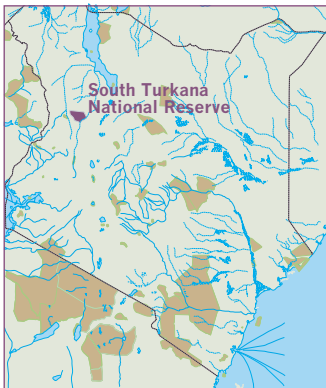
These remote and wild parks, along with Sibiloi National Park, are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The park offers visitors some stunning scenery and excellent bird-watching opportunities with flamingos, pelicans and water birds. It is an important stopover for migrant waterfowl, home to large breeding colonies of hippo and Nile crocodile and also has several species of venomous snakes. South Island is also the home of the El-Molo tribe, of which there are only thought to be 500 individuals.

Central Island National Park is difficult to reach and is in effect a small active volcano with three saline crater lakes known as Flamingo, Crocodile and Tilapia. It is believed to support the world's largest population of Nile crocodiles. Along the shoreline, there are plains and grey's zebra, topi, oryx, reticulated giraffe, greater kudu and Grant's gazelle.

SOUTH TURKANA NATIONAL RESERVE

NORTH RIFT REGION



Contact details

www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

This reserve lies on either side of the main highway about half-way between Kitale and Lodwar

Distance from Nairobi

348 km

Size

1,091 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Hot and dry

Major attractions

Scenic landscape and mountain vistas. It has a number of permanent rivers with woodland fringes and salty springs, game viewing.

Wildlife

Elephant, giraffe, buffalo, eland, oryx, impala, bushbuck, greater kudu, Grant's and Thompson's gazelle, lion, leopard, cheetah, spotted hyena and jackal. There are crocodiles in the rivers and abundant birdlife, much of which gathers on the banks of the Kerio River

Access

By Road: Access is from Isiolo or by scheduled flight from Nairobi. This is a very remote reserve in the north of Kenya.



Accommodation

There are no lodges within the reserve

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing

South Turkana National Reserve is a rugged and very beautiful expanse of land with very few visitors. Consisting of dense thorn bushes and riverine forests, the landscape has a great variety, especially away from the seasonal riverbeds. Although it is low on plains game, it is worth a visit for the large expanses of mixed vegetation and the landscape.

TSAVO EAST NATIONAL PARK

THEATRE OF THE WILD

SOUTHERN REGION



Contact details

PO Box 14, Voi
Tel: +254 (0)43 30049
Email: tenp@africaonline.co.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

South-west Kenya, 2.5 hours from beach hotels to park

Distance from Nairobi

232 km (Mtito Andei Gate), and 250 km north of Mombasa on the main Nairobi-Mombasa road. Note: Nairobi-Voi Gate 325 km. Mombasa-Voi Gate 157 km.

Size

21,812 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Hot and dry

Major attractions

The park is a 'catchment' for visitors from coast resorts with large herds of elephants and other wildlife.

Yatta plateau is about 290 km long and is one of the world's

longest lava flows.

Lugards Falls on the Galana river – this is not a true falls but a series of rapids. Visitors can walk down to river to view rapids.

Mudanda rock is a long rock outcrop that is about 1.6 km long. There is a dam at the base. Animals can be seen drinking. Visitors can walk along the rock and enjoy a cool breeze as well as view wildlife at the base.

Aruba Dam was built in 1952 across the Voi River. The dam attracts many animals and water birds can be seen at this dam.

Tsavo/Athi rivers confluence – when the two rivers join they form the Galana river.

Wildlife: Elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion, leopard, crocodile, waterbuck, kudu, gerenuk, zebra and Hunter's hartebeest

Birds: The prolific bird life features 500 recorded bird species

Access

Roads: Mtito Andei Gate is

located 232 km South of Nairobi and 250 Km north of Mombasa on the main Nairobi-Mombasa Road.

Air: There are several airstrips in the park

Accommodation

Lodge: Voi Safari Lodge

Tented Camps: Galdessa camp, Epiya Chapeyu Camp, Tsavo Safari Camp (Cottar's), Satao Camp, Sobo, Patterson Safari Camp, Aruba, Tarhi, Ndololo

Public Campsites: Kanderi, Visitors bring their own camping gear.

Special Campsites (northern area): Wamata, Makalia, Ithuri; **(southern area):** Kanderi, Durusirikale, Mbuyu

KWS accommodation: Education centre hostels

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Game viewing; walking Safaris along the Galana; bird watching.

Tsavo National Park is the largest park in Kenya and was established on 1st April, 1948. Tsavo National Park was split into East and West for administrative purposes. The two Parks are divided by Nairobi-Mombasa railway and road.

The park has an interesting and diverse history including: the Waliangulu and Kamba tribes used the park as a hunting ground prior to gazette-ment; the first European to see Mount Kenya, Rev. Dr. L. Krapf, journeyed on foot through this area in 1848; during the construction of the railway bridge over the Tsavo River in 1898, lions (the famed man-eaters of Tsavo) terrorised the workers, killing over 130 people before being killed by Col. J.H.Patterson. During World War I, British forces built fortresses along Tsavo river to counter threats from invading German soldiers from Tanganyika (now Tanzania); the European explorer Captain Lugards a European explorer passed through the area on his way to Uganda.

Tsavo East is an easily accessible and very popular Park as is indicated by the high number of tourists. Some of the attractive scenic features include large herds of elephant and other wildlife and striking natural landscapes and structures.



TSAVO WEST NATIONAL PARK

LAND OF LAVA, SPRINGS AND MAN-EATERS

SOUTHERN REGION



Contact details

PO Box 71, Mtito Andei
Tel: +254 (0)56 22120, 22483
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

South Eastern Kenya, inland from Mombasa

Distance from Nairobi

232 km

Size

9065 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Temperature ranges from 20-30°C and rainfall between 200 and 700mm. Two rain seasons: long rains in March and April and short rains – November and December.

Major attractions

Recent volcanoes, lava flows and caves with potential for geological and cave exploration, and hiking. Mzima Springs and underwater hippo and fish watching, Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, Lake Jipe, Mount Kilimanjaro, elephant, diverse bird and plant species.

Wildlife

Leopard, cheetah, wild dogs, buffalo, rhino, elephant, giraffe, zebra, lion, plains game, crocodile, mongoose, hyrax, dik-dik, lesser kudu and porcupine. Prolific birdlife features 600 recorded species

Access

Roads: The main access routes are through Chyulu Gate from Amboseli and Mtito Andei Gate from Nairobi (240 km) and Mombasa. Visitors from Mombasa also use Tsavo Gate near Manyani. The park can also be

reached via the Taveta-Voi road through Maktau, Ziwani and Jipe gates.

Air: Kamboyo, Kilaguni, Tsavo Gate, Jipe, Kasigau, Finch Hattons, Ziwani and Maktau airstrips are in good condition.

Accommodation

Lodges: Ngulia Lodge, Kilaguni Serena Lodge, Severin Safari Camp/Lodge, Finch Hattons

KWS self-catering accommodation: Kamboyo Guest House

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Boat excursion at Lake Jipe; bird watching at Lake Jipe; annual bird ringing at Ngulia lodge; hill and rock climbing at Chaimu and Ngulia Hills; caving at Shetani Caves.

Tsavo West National Park covers approximately 30 per cent of Kenya's park area, and contains a diversity of habitats, wildlife and a mountainous scenic landscape.

The park is a vast expanse of savanna stretching from Mtito Andei, along the Mombasa-Nairobi road and south to the Tanzanian border. The north-eastern boundary along the highway adjoins Tsavo East National Park, but Tsavo West has a more varied topography and a more diverse array of habitats than its neighbour.

The park's habitats include open plains alternating with savannah bush and semi desert scrub, acacia woodlands; rocky ridges and outcrops and more extensive ranges and isolated hills; belts of riverine vegetation; palm thickets and on the Chyulu hills, mountain forest.

There are numerous rocky outcrops and ridges and part of the park, towards the Chyulu Hills, is of recent volcanic origin with lava flows and ash cones including the Shetani lava flow, an example of a recent volcano.

In the far south-western corner on the Kenya Tanzania border is Lake Jipe, part of which is in the park. This very attractive lake is fed by runoff from Mount Kilimanjaro and the North Pare mountains.

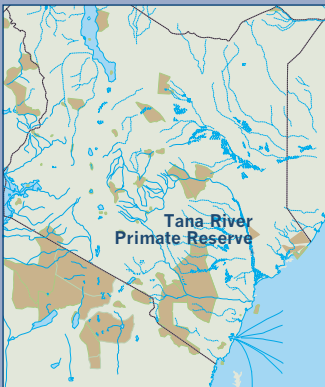
At Mzima Springs, in the North of the park, water that has filtered underground from the Chyulu Hills gushes from below a lava ridge into a series of clear pools.

Visitors have an opportunity to view animals under water through a glass house, man eaters – caves where 2 lions were shot in Tsavo West by Col. Patterson, railway bridge forms boundary.



TANA RIVER PRIMATE NATIONAL RESERVE

COASTLINE REGION



Contact details

PO Box 4, Hola
Tel: +254 (0)46 2035
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

Coast Province

Distance from Nairobi

350 km east of Nairobi and
240 km north of Mombasa

Size

171 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact
tour operator.

Climatic conditions

The climate is generally hot
and dry

Major attractions

River Tana; Tana River Primate
National Reserve is a mixture
of savannah and riverine forest;
game viewing; bird watching;
endangered primate watching

Wildlife

Grevy's zebra, the Maasai and
reticulated giraffe, oryx, buffalo
and lesser kudu. The river hosts
plenty of crocodile and hippo,
and the variety of water birds
is not to be missed. Endemic
red colobus and mangabey
monkeys are found here.

Access

Road: The reserve is accessible
via the Malindi-Garissa road.
Located 250 km north of Mom-
basa on the Malindi to Garissa
road.

Accommodation

Campsites, Bandas, Trails

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities

Walking, game viewing, bird
watching, primates watching.

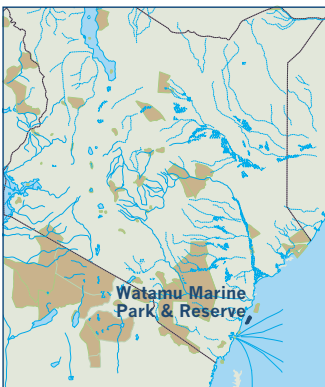


The Tana River National Primate Reserve was gazetted in 1976 to protect the Lower Tana riverine forests and two highly endangered primates, the mangabey and the Tana River red colobus. The reserve consists mainly of patches of riparian forest extending for 16 km along the meandering course of the Lower Tana River, 350 km east of Nairobi and 240 km north of Mombasa. At the time of establishment, the reserve occupied approximately 171 km of forest, dry woodland and savanna habitat on the east and west of the Lower Tana River. 16 patches of forests ranging from 10 to 625 hectares in size fall within the reserve.

WATAMU MARINE NATIONAL PARK & RESERVE

A NATURAL PARADISE

COASTLINE REGION



Contact details

PO Box 109, Malindi
Tel: +254 (0)42 31554, 20845
www.kws.go.ke

Contact person

Senior Warden

Location

North Coast, Malindi

Distance from Mombasa

118 km

Size

10 square km

Park fees

Go to www.kws.go.ke or contact
tour operator.

Climatic conditions

Humid with mean annual tem-
peratures ranging from 22-34°C.
Rainfall about 500 mm per annum

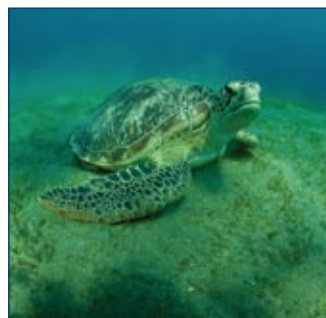
Major Attraction

Haven of green turtle; unique
coral garden; Mida creek

Wildlife

Reptiles/fish: fish, turtles

Insects/arthropods: crabs



Access

Roads: Access is via tarmac
road from Mombasa or Malindi.

Air: Mombasa or Malindi Air-
ports.

Accommodation

There is currently no accom-
modation in the Reserve, a wide
range of options exist in nearby
Malindi town.

Best time to visit

All year round

Activities:

Wind surfing, snorkelling, water
skiing, sunbathing, diving.

Watamu National Park is part of a complex of marine and tidal habitats on Kenya's north coast stretching from Malindi town to beyond the entrance to Mida creek. It is enclosed by the Malindi Marine National Reserve which also encloses Malindi Marine National Park. Habitats include inter-tidal rock, sand and mud; fringing reefs and coral gardens; beds of sea grass; coral cliffs, platforms and islets; sandy beaches and Mida Creek mangrove forest. The park was designated as a Biosphere reserve in 1979.

Mida creek is a large, almost land-locked expanse of saline water, mangrove and inter-tidal mud. Its extensive forests are gazetted as forest reserves and the extreme western tip of Mida Creek is part of the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Reserve.

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LAKE ELEMENTAITA LODGE



The Jacaranda Hotel - Nairobi

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Kenya Association of Tour Operators

www.katokenya.org



Kenya Wildlife Service

www.kws.go.ke



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