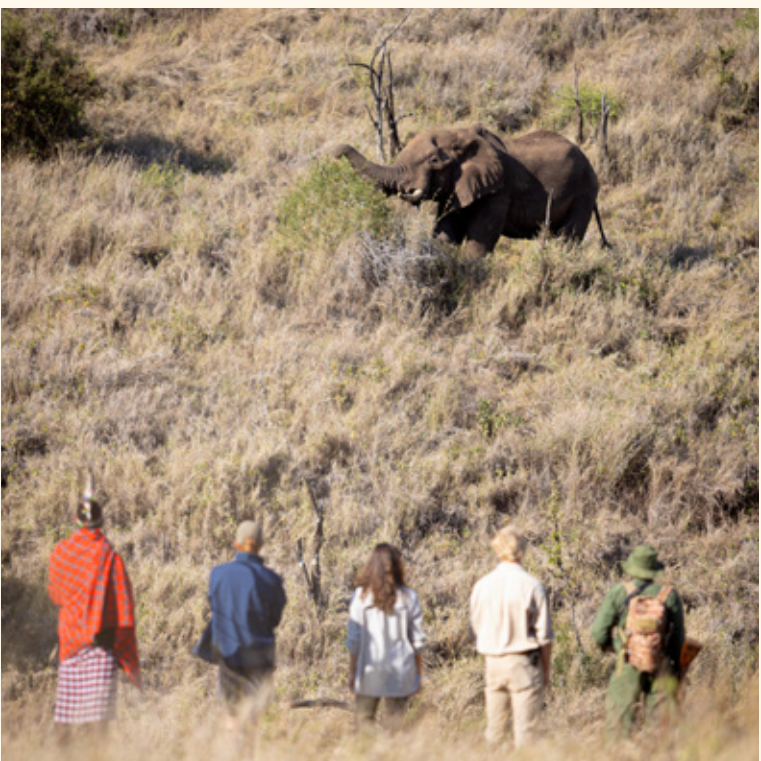




SIRIKOI





WELCOME TO SIRIKOI

At Sirikoi, we don't just talk about conservation, we live it. By coming to Sirikoi on safari, you are directly supporting one of the most pioneering wildlife conservancies in the world – Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, "A Unesco World Heritage Site". You are not only contributing to the protection of iconic wildlife species, but also directly improving the lives of communities in the area.

Thank you for choosing us, and enjoy your Sirikoi safari!



For more information on our awards please visit
<https://www.sirikoi.com/our-legend/awards/>

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Daily program

Each day's experiences and itinerary are tailored to a guest's interests and desires. Below is an outline of a typical day on safari at Sirikoi:

- 6:00am – Wake up with tea, coffee etc. brought to your room
- 6:30am – Depart on a morning game drive
- 8:30am – Return to Sirikoi for breakfast
- 9:30am – 12:30am – Relax at the Lodge
- 10:00am – 11:00am – Sirikoi Tour
- 1:00pm – Lunch is served
- 2:00pm – 4:00pm – Relax at the Lodge
- 4:00pm – Tea time
- 4:30pm – Depart on your afternoon game drive
- 7:00pm – Return to Sirikoi
- 7:30pm – Meet around the fire for an evening drink
- 8:00pm – Dinner is served under the stars

Included Experiences

Some of these included experiences are subject to availability.

- Guided morning and evening game drives
- Sirikoi Tour
- Guided bush walks (subject to availability) and bird watching
- Lewa Behind the Scenes Tour (subject to availability)
- Pre-historic site visits and Bau games
- The Wellness Corner: heated, infinity Swimming pool, Gym and Pickleball

Additional Experiences

These experiences incur an additional cost and are subject to availability.

- Helicopter excursions
- Maasai Cultural Dancers
- Maasai Blessings and Vow Renewals
- Maasai Cultural Village Visit
- Horse riding safaris
- Camel riding safaris
- Ngare Ndare Forest Visit - optional stop at the modern village/market
- Sauna sessions
- Massages

Valuables

Each room has a digital safe where you can place your valuables. Follow the instructions on how to set the safe's code on the laminated card. If any issues arise with the safe, please speak with your Housekeeper or host. If possible, please reset the safe when you leave.

Laundry

A laundry service is offered to all guests. It is not recommended to send in delicate items or clothing that requires specialised care (hand washing powder is provided in the bathroom). Laundry baskets are provided in each room, and laundry received in the morning will be returned in the evening or following morning. To conserve water, towels will only be changed if you place them in the laundry basket.

Water

Our water is tapped from a mountain spring a short distance away, and is gravity fed to the Lodge. It is used exclusively by Sirikoi, and is naturally pure and beautifully clean. Filtered drinking water is provided in glass bottles beside the bed and in the bathroom.

Electricity

We run on solar power which provides power 24 hours a day. There is a back-up generator on stand-by. Guests' electronics can be charged in their rooms and in the main areas. We have 3-point British plugs and one inbuilt international power socket in each room. Between the beds is the switch that operates the lights on the back wall of your room and the outside light. Each room has flashlights in case there is a power failure, and to use walking to and from dinner at night.

Security and Wildlife

Our grounds are fenced with a raised electric wire to keep elephant out. **All other wildlife can come under the fence onto the lawns.** Please do not walk around the Lodge at night – there are askaris or night watchmen that will escort you to and from your room, and in the day it is safe to walk around. Do not be alarmed at night, as you may hear animals moving around. For assistance at night, flash your torch outside and the askari will come to you. In an emergency, if you cannot find our security team, you can call management on +254 705 135 777 or +254 740 130 777.

Internet (WiFi)

There is high-speed WiFi in all the rooms, as well as the main lounge areas. Connectivity is stronger in the rooms, and no password is required to access the WiFi. Please be considerate of other guests and do not watch videos, play music or engage in Whatsapp calls in the main areas.

Gratuities Guideline

Tipping is entirely at the guest's discretion. As a guideline we recommend a general staff tip of \$20 per guest per day, which is shared amongst all staff, excluding guides and spotters. For your guide we recommend \$50 per day per group, and \$20 for the walking ranger. Tipping is done at the end of one's stay.

Credit Cards

Mastercard and Visa credit cards are accepted at Sirikoi, for additional experiences, specialty champagnes, wines and shopping in the gift shop. Please note: There is a 3% surcharge for using a credit card to cover bank service fees. American Express can be used via a pay link sent to you by email.

Gift Shop

The Sirikoi Duka (gift shop) is found at the entrance and has a beautiful array of African artifacts, local beadwork and unique gifts. All pieces are sourced mainly from Kenyan and East African designers, from clothing and handbags, bronzes, jewellery, art, home décor and more. All bills (shop, extra experiences etc.) should be settled before departure, preferably the night before you leave. The Shop is open from 7am to 6pm.

Malaria

We are located in a minimal risk area and insects are few and far between.

Game Drive Rules

Lewa has strict rules for game drives - we urge you take into account the following while out on the conservancy:

- Please respect your guide's requests
- No overcrowding at sightings, keep some distance
- No off-road driving in certain areas
- At sightings, speak quietly
- Do not litter
- On night drives, no flash photography is allowed

Conservation in Action

Guests are encouraged to explore Lewa Wildlife Conservancy's "behind the scenes" operations to get an understanding for how conservation and anti-poaching really works, and to see all that Lewa is doing for wildlife and the surrounding communities. This includes visiting the Operations Room, Tracker Dog Unit, meeting the security or anti-poaching team, and visiting the Lewa school and clinic.

Game Viewing

We are fortunate to overlook a natural waterhole and wetland, which has become a favourite passage and sanctuary for wildlife. Some of the best game viewing is done right from the Lodge itself, on the deck overlooking the busy waterhole and wildlife on the lawns.

Climate and Seasons

With Kenya's arid North to one side, and the lush foothills of Mount Kenya on the other, Sirikoi enjoys a lovely spring-like climate almost all year round. Mornings are brisk, midday is rather warm, and evenings are always cool enough to appreciate a fire.

- Altitude: 5,500ft.
- Rainfall: Mid-April to mid-May and November are usually the rainy seasons.
- Temperature: January to March are the warmest months, and June to September is a bit cooler.

Family Fun

We offer flexibility around meal times and menus for children, as well as educational and fun experiences and child-care. Children thrive in discovering a new place and exploring freely around the Sirikoi grounds – and also love to visit the garden to see the chickens and rabbits!

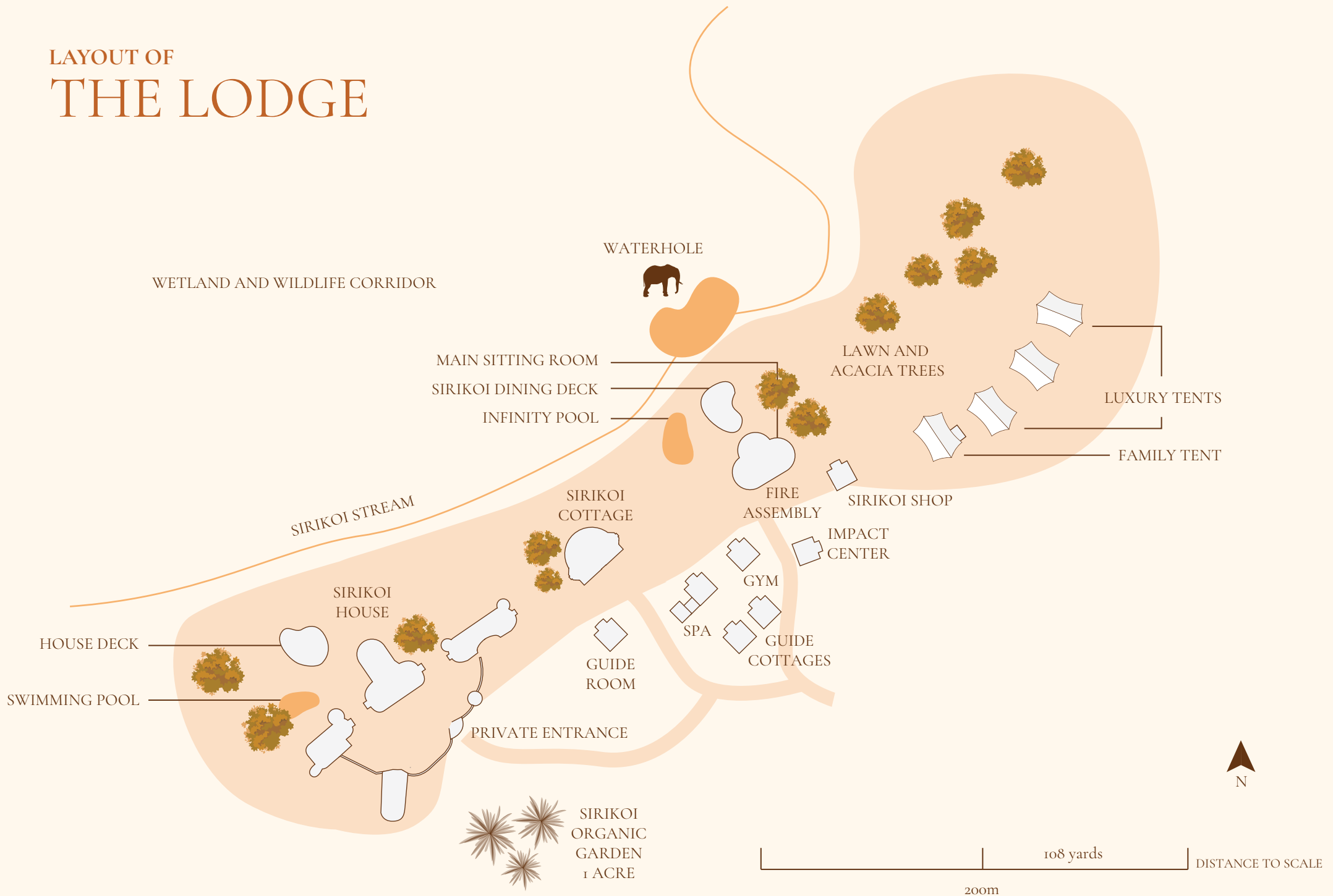
Back-of-House

Visiting the vegetable garden and taking a back-of-house tour is an unexpected highlight for most guests. Seeing first hand what is involved in organic farming, the solar bank and observing our sustainably and conservation efforts, as well as the furniture-making in the workshop, and the kitchen in full swing, is fascinating and hugely rewarding. Going 'back-of-house' brings a new dimension of appreciation for the luxury in the wild that Sirikoi offers.

General

- You are at altitude so do make sure you drink sufficient fluids to avoid dehydration.
- The housekeeper will close your tent, cottage, or house in the evening and spray the room for insects.
- The monkeys can be very naughty and come into your tent to steal biscuits and sugar left over from your early morning tea. Please do not feed them and put your morning tray into the bathroom and close the door.
- When using your mobile please take into consideration your neighbours and the wildlife. Please refrain from using it in public areas and on game drives.
- Please do not smoke in the rooms, use the verandas as a smoking area.
- We strive to be as environmentally friendly as we can and we would ask you to help us support conserving our environment by conserving water (do not leave taps running unnecessarily) and electricity (turn off all lights and unplug your appliances when not in use).
- To reduce our plastic waste we do not supply, Toothbrush and paste, razors, shower caps and sewing kits in the rooms but should you need any of these items, please ask our hosts or housekeepers.
- In case of fire, please report immediately to our Fire Assembly Points, which are both parking areas (the main Lodge parking and the Sirikoi House parking).

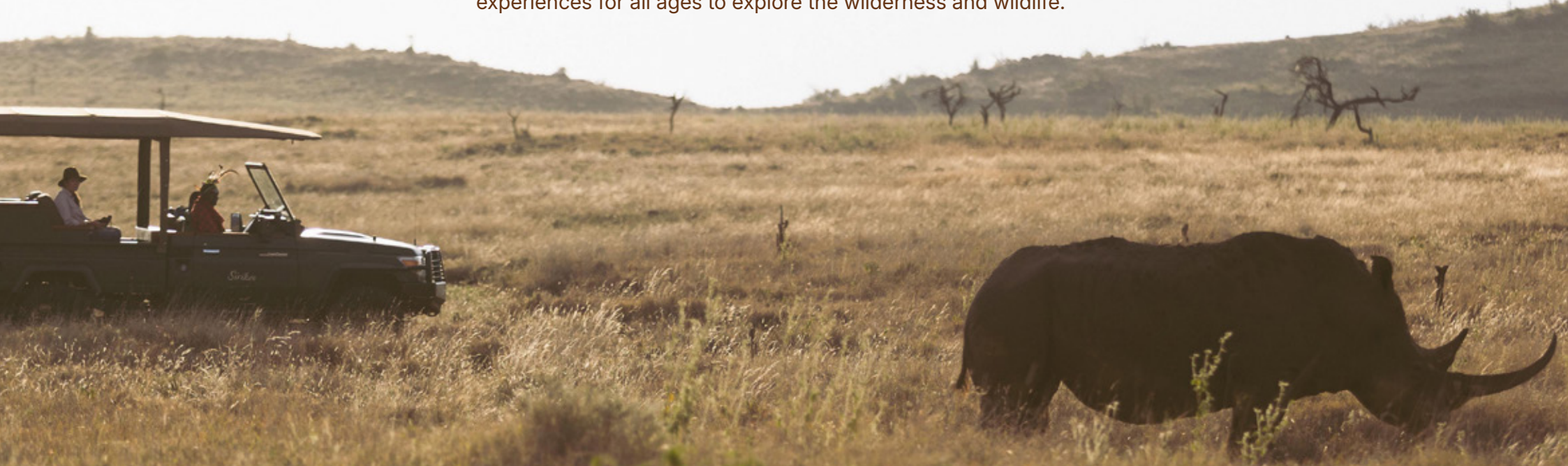
LAYOUT OF THE LODGE





EXPERIENCES

Days are as action-packed or as relaxing as desired, and Sirikoi offers a range of unique and adventurous experiences for all ages to explore the wilderness and wildlife.



Included Experiences

Guided morning and evening game drives
Sirikoi Tour

Guided bush walks (subject to availability) and bird watching
Lewa Behind the Scenes Tour (subject to availability)

Pre-historic site visits and Bau games

The Wellness Corner: heated, infinity Swimming pool,
Gym and Pickleball

Additional Experiences

These experiences incur an additional cost and are subject to availability.

Helicopter excursions

Maasai Cultural Dancers

Maasai Blessings and Vow Renewals

Maasai Cultural Village Visit

Horse riding safaris

Camel riding safaris

Ngare Ndare Forest Visit - optional stop at the modern village/market

Sauna sessions

Massages available upon request

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES

Horse Riding

Horse ride on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy or Borana Conservancy. Riding is a fantastic opportunity to get close to plains game such as zebra and giraffe, and to view the beautiful scenery from a new perspective. You are matched to your horse based on your level of experience and confidence, and we cater for both amateur and expert riders.

Riding on Lewa, can take place in the morning or afternoon. You will ride for about an hour across the plains and among the wildlife.

Morning rides, guests depart from the Lodge at roughly 6am to 6:30 am with a picnic breakfast. After a short game drive, you will arrive at the stables and start riding at about 7am until roughly 8:30am and return to Lodge via a short game drive, roughly 9:30am to 10am.

Time: 4 hours (1.5 hours riding time), from 6am – 10am

Afternoon rides, guests depart from the Lodge at roughly 3pm, go on a short game, you will arrive at the stables and start riding at about 4pm until roughly 5:30pm and return to Lodge via a short game drive roughly 6:30pm to 7pm.

Time: 4 hours (1.5 hours riding time), from 3pm – 7pm

There is also the option to ride camels on Lewa.

Details: Wearing closed, comfortable shoes is recommended. Both stables use English saddles, not Western saddles, and riding hats are provided.

Ngare Ndare Forest Visit

Visiting the Ngare Ndare Forest on the boundary of Lewa offers a complete contrast to the wide open plains of the conservancy, and is a favourite activity amongst our guests. Walking through the forest canopy of enormous indigenous trees on the elevated walkway and diving into the blue glacial pools and waterfalls is an exceptional experience of a very different wilderness.

Guests depart from the Lodge in the morning after breakfast and drive for 40 minutes through a few small modern-day Kenyan rural communities, to reach the forest. The elevated canopy walkway is about 10m high and 400m long, ending at a beautiful lookout deck. There is the option to take lunch to the forest and enjoy a feast on the deck.

Time: 4 hours

Details: Pack your swimming costumes, and we will pack the towels. Wear good shoes for walking. This activity is not recommended for those who struggle with agility or are afraid of heights.





Helicopter Excursions

Sirikoi offers three different helicopter excursions, each exciting and bespoke, taking you through incredible scenery on an immersive and thrilling wilderness experience like no other. Flying over the extraordinarily diverse landscapes will undoubtedly be the highlight of your safari!

The helicopters take a maximum of 5 passengers. Helicopter excursions are best booked in advance.



Massages

Pamper yourself with a massage and find joy in knowing that every penny spent goes towards supporting the education of underprivileged children.

Please pop into the shop to see what treatments are available and book your treatment or speak with your host.



Maasai Dancers

At Sirikoi, guests have the unique opportunity to witness and participate in a traditional Maasai dance performed by warriors adorned in their colorful, intricate traditional wear, including beadwork necklaces and wraps (shukas). They perform in the evening before dinner at the main deck. The dance is captivating, energetic, and thoroughly entertaining, featuring only the voices of the performers as instruments and rhythm. The dance typically lasts around 30 minutes, and all the dancers are from the local community, ensuring an authentic and unforgettable cultural experience.

Maasai Cultural Village Visit

Learn first-hand about local customs, culture, and the daily lives of the Laikipia Maasai. After breakfast at the Lodge, you will set off on an hour game drive, passing through Lewa and on to the community land. On arrival you will be welcomed into the 'manyata' (homestead) where approximately 20 families live an age-old Maasai lifestyle. You will learn about traditions that have now passed into history, such as ingenious methods of hunting game animals, and how the community now live alongside the wildlife that thrives in their community conservancy. In learning about the critical cultural and economic importance of their livestock, you will be shown around their traditionally built homes. You will also share in their rich singing and dancing.

THE SIRIKOI STORY

The Owners

Willie and Sue Roberts, the founders and owners of Sirikoi, have poured their heart and soul into the Lodge, and it shows. The family has been in the safari industry for over 50 years, guiding safaris across the continent and developing Lodges across Kenya. Sirikoi is the third Lodge Willie Roberts built, his first being when he was just nineteen, with no help from an architect – just vision, experience and a great sense of style. Sue's passion for botany has resulted in beautiful grounds, rare creepers adding character to chimneys, and the organic vegetable garden – the most prodigious of any Lodge garden in Kenya.

Their safari and conservation legacy extends beyond Sirikoi. Willie and Sue's daughter, Caro, continues to operate Willie's luxury mobile camps in some of Kenya's most beautiful and remote areas, and their late son, Richard, has an award-winning camp in the Masai Mara and was a powerful advocate for elephant conservation, having founded the Mara Elephant Project.

The Team

A large team of staff work tirelessly behind the scenes to look after just 18 guests when the Lodge is full. Most of the Sirikoi staff are from the neighbouring villages close by and have worked at the Lodge for years, developing and learning new skills along the way. There is a great sense of pride and enjoyment, which shines through the team's cheerful service and attention to detail.

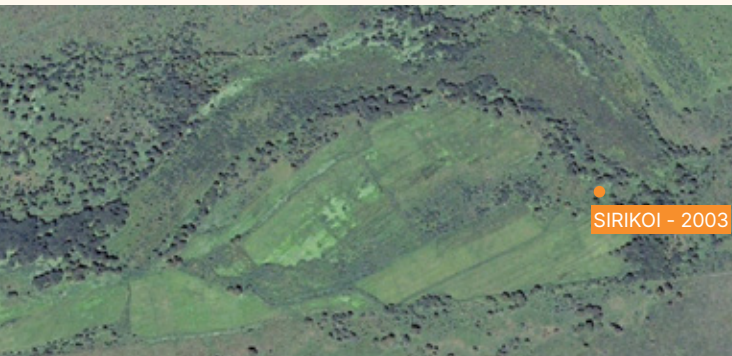
Our Guides

Maasai and Samburu warriors passionate about their land and culture guide guests throughout their stay, sharing their ancient knowledge of the area and animals and their fascinating way of life. This wisdom mixed with good humour and fantastic wildlife sightings make for truly memorable game drives.



SIRIKOI TIMELINE

- **2003** Willie and Sue purchased the land with some friends (7500 acres in total), and secured it for wildlife habitat. Willie decided the area next to the Sirikoi stream was where they would build the Lodge, because it was out of the wind, would always be green and the wildlife would always be close by because of the water. At the time, the green lawns of Sirikoi were sugar cane crop fields and overgrown bush.
- **2004** The four Luxury Tents were built and Sirikoi officially opened. In those days the main living and dining area was a tent on the lawn near the Sirikoi stream.
- **2006** The main mess or living area and Sirikoi dining deck were built – two of Sirikoi’s most impressive features today.
- **2007** The swimming pool went in.
- **2008** The Sirikoi Cottage was completed and ready for guests.
- **2010** In December the Sirikoi House opened its doors to our first House guests.
- **2011** Shortly after the Sirikoi House opened, the dining deck at the House was built.
- **2020** Gym and Massage Centre.
- **2025** Sauna and Pickleball available to guests.



GUIDE PROFILES

James Nangonye

James is from a local village called Leparua, part of the greater IINGwesi Maasai Community. He always dreamed of becoming a guide and started showing people around his village when he was still in high school. He has worked at Sirikoi since 2010, starting out in the workshop, with Willie Roberts encouraging his interest in guiding, he worked his way up to becoming Head Guide. The experience of meeting new people from around the world is something James loves and it is still a highlight of his job.

James is a KPSGA Silver guide and currently working towards his gold level.

One of James' most exciting sightings was seeing a Martial eagle capturing a baby impala, when a Crowned Eagle swooped in to try and snatch the prey.

Another was a Mama Cheetah that was walking with her cubs, when a male started to approach them, (cubs care in danger from male cheetahs when it's mating season), she abandoned her cubs and ran away, which was very smart because then the cubs would not be danger if she was not around, The male did not harm the cubs and carried on past them. Thankfully the mama and cubs were reunited a while later.

Legei Leiro

Legei is also from the local village called Leparua, part of the greater IINGwesi Maasai Community. He was first attracted to wildlife whilst out with his cattle when he was a warrior, a coming-of-age tradition for all young boys to become a man. During that time, he met Willie Roberts who brought him to Sirikoi in 2010 to train as a guide.

He loves working on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, which holds a very special place in his heart.

Legei is a KPSGA Bronze guide and is preparing to attain his silver level in the near future.

Seeing the rare Sitatunga antelope on Lewa has been a huge highlight for Legei and he feels passionately about protecting nature for future generations.

There was a hunting Lioness, that was going after a Male Impala and was very dramatic as they when the male jumped to escape the lioness also jumped and she grabbed him in mid-air, it was so exciting.



Onesmus Lesiata

Onesmus is a Samburu from Wamba, Saburu, Northern Kenya. He has years of experience guiding in renowned conservancies and wilderness areas in Kenya, including the Maasai Mara and Ol Pejeta, before coming to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

Onesmus is a Silver KPSGA Guide, and our first guide to attain his FGASA NQF2 Level 1 and NQF4 Level 2.

What Onesmus finds special about Lewa is that, unlike many other conservancies and parks in Kenya, there is a high concentration of Black and White rhino, and he feels passionate about protecting these amazing animals for future generations to enjoy.

Onesmus is also a passionate Birder, and his favourite birds are the Bateleur Eagle and The Golden Breasted Starling.



Ngila Loitamany Johnson

Ngila is from a small village called Arijijo in northern Laikipia region, a local sub-tribe of the Laikipia Maasai Community.

He started at Sirikoi in 2015 with over 10 years' experience as a professional safari guide. Previously he worked with the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy research department for a year, which gave him a wide range of field and bush experience. He was also the Head of the Archaeology Department on Lewa, responsible for establishing a museum at the Children's Education Centre.

Ngila is a Silver KPSGA Guide and has attained his FGASA NQF2 Level 2 and Eco Training Field Guide.

Ngila's most memorable sighting was watching two jackals kill and begin feeding on a young impala fawn, when a Martial eagle swooped down and grabbed not only the fawn, but one of the jackals which had the fawn in its hold and fly off with them both. The jackal eventually let go of his hold of the fawn and fell to the ground - none the worse for its first flight!

We found two lionesses' near Sirikoi, they were watching two grant gazelles fighting and when it got very serious, one of lioness's decided to try her luck and managed to capture one of the Gazelle. The other did not realise that his fighting partner had been caught and thought he had won the fight until he opened his eyes, saw the lioness and ran for his life.

Peter Talala

Peter is from a local village called Ngare Ndare, a local sub-tribe of the Laikipia Maasai Community.

He joined the Sirikoi team in 2011 as a waiter, with a dream to become a safari guide. A year after joining Sirikoi, Sue noticed his guiding enthusiasm and potential, and he began joining guests on game drives as a spotter. In 2013 he passed his bronze level guiding exam with flying colours.

Peter is preparing to attain his silver level soon.

His most memorable wildlife sighting on Lewa was seeing a lioness and very young cub stalk and kill a wounded zebra at the waterhole. The lioness was clearly showing the young cub how to hunt and how to suffocate prey – the cub even had a turn to hold the zebra by the neck. Within a few minutes, the distress call from the zebra attracted around 15 hyena, and another two lions from a different pride!



SUSTAINABILITY



We are proud to be a member of “The Long Run”; a global sustainable travel movement helping businesses, nature, and people work together for a better future.

As a proud member of this global community of nature-based tourism businesses, Sirikoi is committed to driving holistic sustainability guided by the 4Cs: Conservation, Community, Culture and Commerce.

Conservation

Sirikoi plays a vital role in conserving the flora and fauna: of the region by actively managing a 3,000-acre footprint on the immediate boundary of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Through our reforestation project, we have established exclusion zones with an aim to restore and regenerate forests that were destroyed by past agricultural land use practises.

Guests contribute direct to conservation when they visit Sirikoi, the conservation fee is channelled to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy who utilise it for a variety of projects involving the community and wildlife.



Community

We believe in empowering communities and creating gender balance, approximately 75% of our workforce is from the local community with 30% being women.

We work closely with the local communities in our area and remains dedicated to building strong relationships by actively participating in education programs related to conservation, finances, computer skills, and organic farming. We also support various programs such as bursaries, internships, health initiatives, Life Skills programs, school feeding, and income generation enterprises. This translates to about 3000 people being impacted directly and indirectly.

If you would you like to know more about our community support efforts or how you can help contribute and support our projects, please speak to your Host on duty, or email our General Manager, maria@sirikoi.com

Culture

We believe that cultural diversity should be celebrated and strive to promote the preservation of different cultures by encouraging our staff to stay true to their cultural heritage. Our team love to share stories of their history and culture with our guests through campfire talks.

Commerce

We are committed to ethical and sustainable practices and make every effort to purchase as much as possible from local farmers, shops, and curio sellers. We encourage our guests to participate in cultural village visits and enjoy traditional dances from the local community, providing a direct source of income to them.





LOCATION

LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

Sirikoi Lodge is surrounded by 68,000 acres of the pure wilderness of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, and the location of the Lodge is truly exceptional.

The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an award-winning model for community conservation. Starting out with just 15 black rhinos in 1984, Lewa's rhino population has since risen steadily, making the Conservancy the pioneer rhino conservation success story in Kenya and East Africa. Today there are 130 black and 120 white rhino protected on the Conservancy, with over 20 having been moved to restock previously inhabited areas as well as introduce the species to new suitable and secure habitats.

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is a vital wildlife corridor connecting Kenya's wild and arid north with the lush Mount Kenya ecosystem. The wildlife is abundant and includes many rare endangered species such as reticulated giraffe, black and white rhino, and the largest resident population of Grevy's zebra in the world. Elusive leopard and wild dog sightings, and families of elephant have carved Sirikoi into their migratory routes and almost daily big herds can be seen just in front of the Sirikoi deck for hours at a time.

Find out more about Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and all they are doing for conservation and communities at www.lewa.org.



THE MAASAI AND SAMBURU PEOPLE

The Maasai are one of the last remaining intact African tribes. They are a Nilotic group (originally from the lower Nile valley) inhabiting northern, central and southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. The Maasai are one of the most distinct and recognized tribes in Africa, known for their colourful dress, pastoral customs and their reputation as warriors. Essentially there are 22 geographic sectors or sub tribes of the Maasai community, each one having its own customs, appearance, leadership and dialects. Many Maasai communities live within very close proximity to renowned wildlife areas, and are helping to pioneer a new era of community conservation.



Traditional Maasai culture and entire way of life is centered on their cattle – their primary source of food and measure of wealth. They eat the meat, drink the milk daily, and drink the blood of their cattle on occasion. Bulls and oxen are slaughtered for meat on special occasions and for ceremonies. More recently, some of the Maasai have grown dependent on food produced in other areas such as maize meal, rice, potatoes and cabbage. Cattle and livestock also form the basis of all trade within Maasai culture.

The Maasai live in settlements called manyattas, which is a group of huts forming a unit within a common fence. The houses are loaf-shaped and made of mud, sticks, grass, cow dung and cows' urine.

Maasai society is strongly patriarchal in nature, with elder men, sometimes joined by retired elders, deciding most major matters for each Maasai group. A full body of oral law covers many aspects of behavior. Women are in charge of making the houses, collecting water and firewood, milking the cattle and cooking for the family. The men are warriors and are in charge of the group's security while the boys are in charge of herding the livestock. During seasons of drought, both the warriors and the boys are responsible for herding the livestock. The older men are called Elders and are in charge of day-to-day activities.



1953 – 2018
WILLIE ROBERTS

Willie Roberts was one of the greatest and most instrumental ambassadors for wildlife conservation in Kenya. He set up the first Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya in the Maasai Mara, essentially founding the 'conservancy movement', saving the greater area from being carved up for farming, laying down a clear path of success for community conservancies in Kenya and setting an example and an inspiration for others to follow.

In the 1980s, Willie and Sue moved to the Maasai Mara with the intentions of setting up a farm, but soon realized the land is better suited for wildlife. Willie was the first in the Maasai Mara to convert his rented land into a conservancy that the Maasai landowners could collect wildlife-based income from – he called it Ol Chorro Oiroua Group Ranch.

At the time, the area was rife with human/wildlife conflict, inspiring Willie to change their plan to farm. Instead, he set out to persuade the Minister of Environment to change land use policy so local communities benefitted from wildlife. The legal battle was long, but the lawyer who won the case in Kenya's High Court, Stephen Mwenezi, was one of the speakers to pay tribute to Willie in the Mara on April 27, 2019. Over a thousand people attended Willie's memorial in the Mara, including many Maasai who now protect wildlife as an asset.

“At a young age, he navigated political minefields, negotiating with President Moi, Paramount Chief Ole Ntutu, and many Trans Mara County Council representatives, to set up the Ol Chorro Oiroua Wildlife Management Association. Group Ranch, and the Mara Conservancy. Willie achieved all of this under great political pressure and personal risk, and it marked a turning point in the Kenya Conservation Landscape. Today, conservancies are well established throughout Kenya thanks to his pioneering work.”

– Prof. Judi Wakhungu, former Minister of Environment,
Water, & Natural Resources for Kenya.



Willie didn't stop there - he went on to establish the Mara Conservancy in an area that was known for its rampant poaching and hunting.

Ian Craig, the founder of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Willie's brother-in-law and lifelong friend, attributes the success of the rhino population on Lewa to Willie, who in 1992 bid on White Rhino at an auction in South Africa. With scarcely the money to even transport the rhino back to Kenya, Willie gambled with characteristic confidence. That starter population of 5 rhino from South Africa resulted in the 80 White Rhino on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy today, nearly three decades later.

His final legacy, Sirikoi, evolved from Willie's lifelong commitment to wildlife conservation combined with community development. On hearing a large parcel of land adjacent to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy was at risk of development, he and partners purchased it to secure it for wildlife and incorporate it within Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Once again they converted farmland into a wildlife sanctuary, but this time, at the forefront of sustainably green design, added solar-powered energy and a garden supplying vegetables, fruits and flowers to the Lodge. Sirikoi soon became Kenyas top Eco Lodge. 3 months before Willie passed away, Sirikoi was voted Africa's Leading Luxury Lodge 2017 in the World Travel Awards, becoming the only Lodge in Kenya to achieve this title.

Willie spent his life in conservation and helping communities living in wildlife areas to exist in harmony with each other. Willie was a true visionary, and one of the forefathers of wildlife conservation in Kenya.



WORDS & PHRASES

English

Hello
What's up
Goodbye
Welcome/You're welcome
Go well/safe travels
How are you?
Thank you
Thank you very much
Please
Good night/sleep well
Very good
Water
Beautiful
Cheers!
Elephants
Leopard
Lion
Zebra
Buffalo
Giraffe

Kiswahili

Jambo
Mambo
Kwaheri
Karibu
Safari Njema
Habari
Asante
Asante Sana
Tafadhali
Lala Salama
Mzuri Sana
Maji
Maradadi
Maisha Murefu
Ndovu
Chui
Simba
Punda Mulia
Nyati
Twiga



Sheba the orphan cheetah, who was raised at Sirikoi and released back into the wild in 2014.

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