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FIVE OF THE BEST ON THE NORTH COAST

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WIN 2 NIGHTS

Elewana's Elsa's Kopje, Meru

TWO WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES TO WATCH OUT FOR IN NORTHERN KENYA

Reteti Elephant Sanctuary and Sera Rhino Sanctuary are both celebrating their first year, to great acclaim.



Reteti Elephant Sanctuary is the first community-owned elephant orphanage in Africa. It's also the first time the communities of the area, traditionally nomadic pastoralists, have come together to protect their wildlife.

Opened by the Samburu Country Governor, HE Moses Lenolkulal, in August 2016, the sanctuary aims to rescue orphaned and abandoned baby elephants and return them to their mothers within 48 hours; however, when this isn't possible – the mothers have been poached or cannot be found – the calves are taken in and, when they're ready, released into the wild. These young elephants need 24-hour care: they're hand-fed, allowed to graze in the bush and to wallow in mud baths, and protected overnight. Since its establishment, the sanctuary has rescued 30 elephants. Currently, there



are 10 elephants in residence, and the mobile rescue team is on patrol daily looking out for elephants in need of help. However, the benefits of the sanctuary aren't for the elephants alone. The project is of huge use to the local people. The staff of 35, all from the local community, have regular salaries and can feed their families and pay their children's school

fees. For the first time, the community is seeing elephants not as a threat to their livestock but as a source of income. They know the elephants by name and are learning how to coexist peacefully with them.

Situated in the Mathews Range, the new sanctuary is a collaboration between



Image: Saruni Kenya



Image: Saruni Kenya

WILDLIFE

Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy, Samburu County Government, Kenya Wildlife Service, Northern Rangelands Trust, San Diego Zoo, Conservation International, Tusk Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Elephants and private philanthropists.

In nearby Sera Conservancy, the Sera Rhino Sanctuary was established in May 2015 – the first time a community conservancy in East Africa has owned and operated a sanctuary dedicated to the conservation of the critically endangered black rhino. The Kenya Wildlife Service, the Northern Rangelands Trust and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy together moved 20 black rhinos into the new sanctuary an area that hadn't seen black rhinos since the last one was

poached 25 years earlier. And in March 2016 history was made: a black rhino called Naitamany gave birth to a healthy calf – the first black rhino to be born on community land in northern Kenya for over 25 years. There are currently 11 rhinos in the sanctuary and the team are planning to translocate more this year from around Kenya.

As with Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, the sanctuary is of huge benefit to the local community, providing them with employment and income. The mobile anti-poaching squad is a team of ten who come from all the local communities of the area. Trained by an ex-British Army officer in conflict and combat management, and in advanced first aid, they support the work of the rangers.

Samburu County Government, USAID, the Lundin Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, San Diego Zoo, St Louis Zoo, FFI, Tusk Trust, The US Fish and Wildlife Service, Zurich Zoo, Zoos South Australia and private philanthropists support the sanctuary.

Now visitors can experience this sanctuary first-hand. Saruni Camps have established Saruni Rhino Camp in Sera Conservancy: the first camp in East Africa to offer rhino tracking. The camp offers a walking safari where visitors can get up close and personal – under the protection of an expert Saruni guide and a highly trained Sera Community Conservancy ranger – to black rhinos.



Image: Saruni Kenya

Using a transmitter that senses the GPS coordinates of the 11 rhinos, the trackers can get within meters of this striking endangered species, giving their guests the thrill that only close encounters with big game can give.

For more information
 Reteti Elephant Sanctuary – www.retetielephants.org
 Sera Rhino Sanctuary – www.rnt-kenya.org/sera
 To experience rhino tracking visit
www.sarunirhinotracking.com



Image: Shuan Butler

SAMBURU FLIGHT TIMETABLE

FROM	TO	DEP	ARR
Wilson	Samburu	08:00	09:20
Wilson	Samburu	10:20	11:30
Wilson	Samburu	13:00	14:35
Samburu	Wilson	12:10	13:15

Safarilink operates three daily flights to Lewa, Loisaba, Nanyuki and Samburu.