



# Saruni Rhino Fact Sheet

## Sera Conservancy, Samburu, Kenya

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Saruni Rhino is an exclusive and intimate camp located in Kenya's wild North in Sera Community Conservancy, 350,000 hectares of unspoiled wilderness, a little under 2 hours from our Saruni Samburu lodge in nearby Kalama Conservancy.

Saruni Rhino is a 3-banda camp. A banda is a rustic stone cottage with a thatched roof and canvas roll down windows. All bandas have flushing toilets, hot & cold water and natural stone showers.

The bandas are situated along a spectacular dry river bed lined with doum palms in a way that ensures maximum privacy for guests. It is located a half hour's drive from the community-owned & managed Sera Rhino Sanctuary, the first in East Africa where black rhino are tracked on foot.

Guests can enjoy the nearby waterhole visited daily by herds of elephants, impala, kudu, monkeys and much, much more, including the famous sand grouse spectacle. All this can be enjoyed from the comfort of a guest's verandah, the dining and lounge area, the swimming pool or the popular day bed.

You are guided by Samburu warriors who are passionate about their land and their culture, learning first-hand about their fascinating customs and traditions and their ancient, local knowledge - a truly authentic experience. Being on safari with a Samburu professional guide means that you will not only encounter more animals, but you will learn how to read the book of nature through their eyes. It's the beginning of a friendship that, for many of our guests, lasts well beyond the duration of the safari.

The vastness and purity of this landscape, combined with the untouched local culture, elegant comfort and welcoming hospitality makes for an intimate, exceptional and life-changing experience.





## Accommodation | Experiences | 6 Reasons | Important Information



### ACCOMMODATION

3 x rustic stone Bandas sleeping 8-10

#### Banda 1

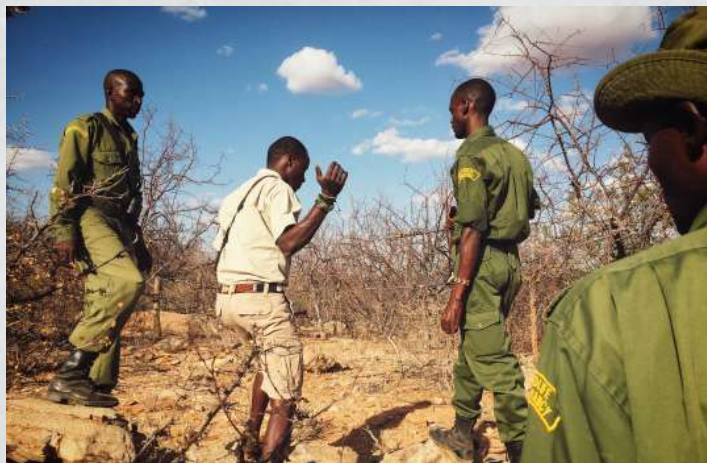
Banda 1 is an open banda that can sleep 2-4 people (1 x double with the possibility of adding 1-2 x singles), with a bathroom & natural stone shower and flushing toilet accessed directly from the room. It is open plan in style with no room divider so more than 2 guests sharing will need to feel comfortable in the open-plan space. A beautiful private sandy terrace has chairs and tables overlooking the 'lugga', the dry river bed.

#### Banda 2

Banda 2 is an open banda that sleeps 2 people (1 x double bed). The en-suite bathroom & natural stone shower and flushing toilet is located within the banda. A beautiful private sandy terrace has chairs and tables overlooking the 'lugga', the dry river bed. A nearby tree bed provides additional relaxation space.

#### Banda 3

Family Banda 3 is a large and elegant villa composed of 2 x double bedrooms sleeping 4 people (configuration can be arranged as 2 x doubles OR 1 x double and 2 x singles based on requirement. A 3rd single can be added on a case by case basis). Both rooms have en-suite bathrooms & natural stone showers with flushing toilets. A shared lounge provides a cool retreat from the large stone verandah which also has outside seating & tables and has the best view of the waterhole directly in front.



### EXPERIENCES

- On-foot black rhino tracking inside the Rhino Sanctuary
- Game drives through the 350,000 hectares-large Sera Conservancy
- Game drives through the 54,000 hectares-large Rhino Sanctuary
- Spectacular bird-watching, with the unique 'show' of tens of thousands of sand grouse that swoop to take the water, the flapping of their wings en masse creating one of the most sensory delights possible
- Waterhole sightings
- Infinity pool - relax & rejuvenation
- Sunset lugga walks
- Guided bush walks
- Bush meals - breakfast along the dry river bed and starlit dinners under the vast African skies
- Sundowners
- Visit to 'The Kisima Hamsini', a series of 50 springs where local pastoralists take their livestock to water, and while they sing they also dig up water from the wells to fill up holders and troughs
- Visit to Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, providing protection for orphaned and abandoned elephant calves with an aim to release them back into the wild herds adjoining the Sanctuary (payable extra & bookable in advance ONLY)
- Helicopter and bi-plane excursions upon request (payable extra and bookable in advance ONLY)



# 6 Reasons to visit Saruni Rhino

## ① First Black Rhino Tracking Experience in East Africa

Pioneering walking safari first of its kind in East Africa, providing a unique and exhilarating adventure whilst also allowing guests to actively contribute to the protection of this iconic species. Tracking black rhino on foot, accompanied by an expert Saruni guide and a highly-trained Sera Community Conservancy ranger in safety, to spot any of the 16 rhino throughout the 54,000 hectares-large sanctuary.

## ② First community-owned rhino sanctuary in Africa

Sera Community Conservancy, home to around 16,000 Samburu semi-nomadic pastoralists which form part of a sub-tribe of the Maasai, here is where essentially a sanctuary within a conservancy was formed. Highly secure and fenced, a group of black rhino were re-introduced to Sera Conservancy rhino sanctuary to spread and increase Kenya's black rhino population and encourage visitors to the remote and stunning part of the country with a fully community-focused ideology to encourage the sustainable benefits of conservation that Saruni so strongly believes.

## ③ First Black Rhino reintroduction to North Kenya

An area which for over 40 years has seen the depletion of the black rhino, until now, where one of the most advanced conservation projects has taken place and the first of its kind in Africa, whereby a group of black rhino has been successfully reintroduced in the fenced, maximum protection sanctuary offering the endangered species a chance to flourish.

## ④ Singing Wells

A totally unique and intimate tradition, the singing wells of Samburu remain an exclusive experience we offer our guests. Home to The Fifty Wells, 'Kisima Hamsini', a series of fifty springs where local pastoralists take their livestock to water, digging deep in the barren land filling up wells to in-turn fill up holders and troughs whilst singing a unique melody to which each Moran's herd individually heeds.

## ⑤ Endless untouched landscape

Located a little over 1.5 hours drive from Saruni Samburu lodge, Saruni Rhino lies in the wild, undiscovered northern frontier of Kenya in 350,000 hectares of Sera Community Conservancy. The semi-arid, untouched, striking landscape stretches further than the eye can see giving a sense of total inimitability.

## ⑥ Unique Wildlife & Eco-System

The Sera Community Conservancy lies home to one of the most fascinating ecosystems, to which guests have the remarkable opportunity to explore with matchless experiences such as the 'Samburu Five'. The 'Samburu Five' are rare and endemic to the Samburu ecosystem. These consist of the Gerenuk, the Reticulated giraffe, the Somali ostrich, the Grevy's zebra, the Beisa oryx and an abundance of other rare species such as the leopard, the striped hyena, the Civet cat and the wonderful African wild dog not forgetting a plethora of birdlife!





## Important information

### How to get there

You can drive or fly to and from Saruni Rhino. Driving from Nairobi takes approximately 7-9 hours, and it is a 2 hour drive from Saruni Samburu. Kalama Airstrip is one and a half hours away from the lodge and there are daily scheduled flights from Air Kenya and Safarilink into Kalama. Alternatively charter flights can fly to Kauro airstrip a mere 5 minutes from Saruni Rhino. Email us for more information.

### Forms of payment

Saruni Rhino accepts:

- Visa and MasterCard credit cards
- Debit Cards

Please note:

- There is a 4% surcharge for using a credit to cover bank service fees.
- We do not accept cash payments at Saruni Rhino for additional services or products. Please arrange for cash payments to be taken at Saruni Samburu or Saruni head office before arriving, if necessary.
- Please bring cash for gratuities.

### Malaria prevention

Saruni Rhino is a low risk area due to low population density. Mosquito nets are still provided in each room as a precaution. It is each guest's personal decision whether to take preventative medication or not, and one should consult their personal GP if uncertain.

### Tipping guideline

Staff gratuities are entirely at guest's discretion, and are collected by the manager and placed in the main tip box, then distributed evenly to all staff members. Guides are tipped separately.

### Electricity at the Lodge

Saruni Rhino runs on solar power, which provides electricity (220V) 24 hours a day. A generator is on stand-by for backup. Guests electronics can be charged in their rooms and in the main areas. The power at Saruni Rhino can support hairdryers. We have 3-point British plugs, and recommend guests bring their own converters and universal plug adaptors.

### Communication services

Wi-Fi internet connection is free and available in Swara House, the communal lounge and dining area. Mobile phone signal is available in some areas of the lodge (Safaricom is best).

### Samburu Climate

Altitude: 2500 ft.

Temperature: Hot days (sometimes very hot), warm nights, low humidity. Rainfall: approx 250mm per year.

### Meals and cuisine

We cater for all dietary requirements and allergies as informed prior to arrival. The cuisine at Saruni is Italian-inspired and we use fresh and local ingredients, as well as special imported products. We offer communal dining hosted by our guides and managers, Due to its size, for guests staying in Family Banda 3, we offer in-room dining. Meals will be organised to suit guests' needs so there are no set times. The lodge has a daily three-course set menu. Bottled drinking water is provided in all rooms, at all meals and in all game drive vehicles.

### Saruni Rhino vehicles

At Saruni Rhino we have 4x4 Land Rovers for all game drives and transfers, which are open sided for the best game viewing, each with a canvas roof for shade. Game drives are done on a shared vehicle basis. Exclusive use of the vehicle is not available at Saruni Rhino due to the intimate nature of the camp and the logistics relating to the rhino tracking sessions and activities.

### Languages spoken at Saruni

English and Kiswahili.

### Responsible Tourism

Saruni believes fully and invests significantly in community development and conservation.

- Saruni Rhino works together with the Northern Rangelands Trust to improve the living conditions for the local Samburu people who own the Sera Conservation Area, and is providing them with income generated by tourism.
- Saruni Rhino is committed to employing most of our staff from this small community. At least 90% of the employees are local Samburu men and women and are trained by the lodge.
- The lodge has been designed and built in an eco-friendly way to achieve minimum impact on the environment.

