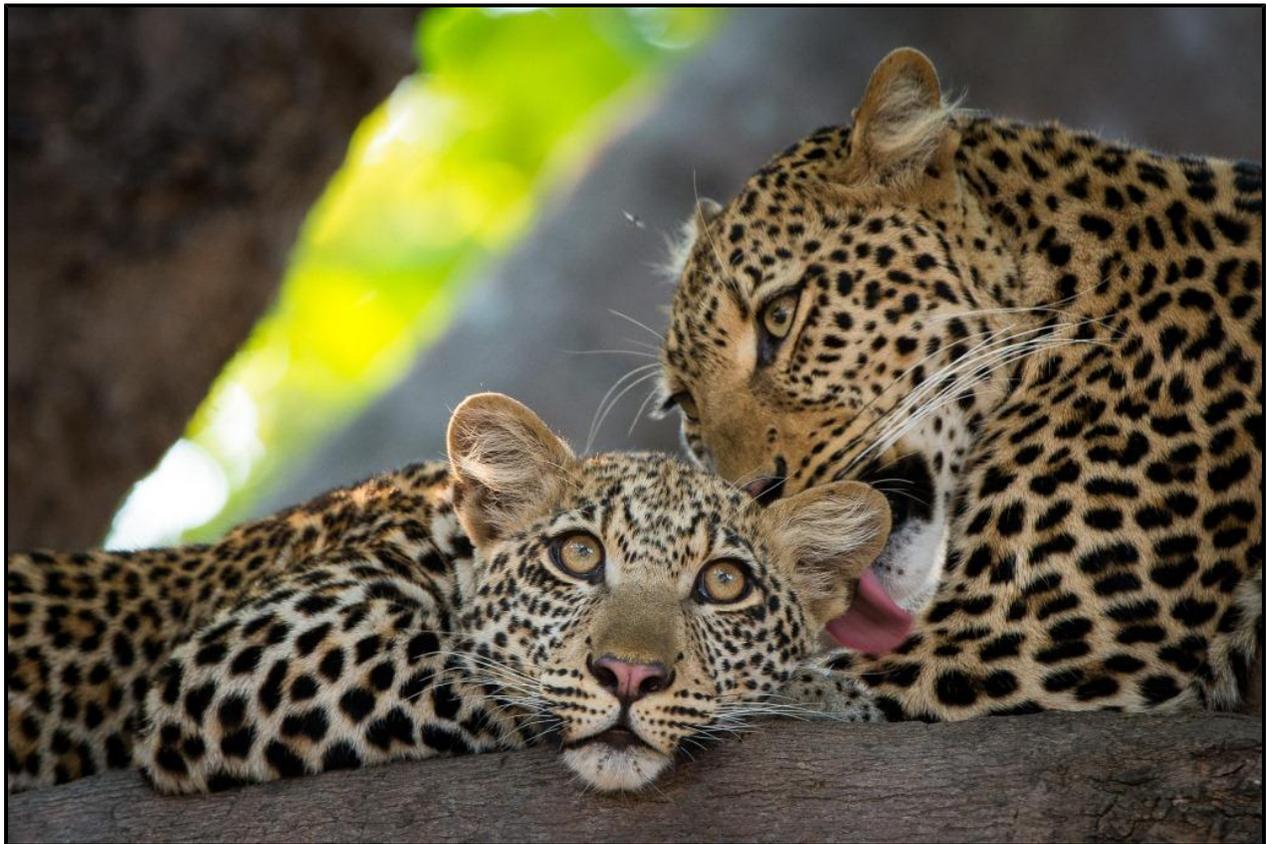




## An Unforgettable Safari in Kenya for Tusk to celebrate their 25th anniversary



### Aardvark Safaris and Tusk

Prepared by: Richard Smith on: 12 March 2015  
Telephone: +44 (0) 1980 849160

## Overview

Combine a luxurious big game safari, cultural interaction and a visit to see the life changing work of the Tusk Foundation in Kenya. This is the best of Africa and the best of Tusk together in an unforgettable and exhilarating trip.

Kenya has it all from rolling plains, expansive vistas, beautiful birds, to the "Big 5" and much other game. You will be hosted by some of the best guides in Africa and stay in some of the finest camps in Kenya. The staff at each camp will be sure to provide you with all the comforts of home, but with the feel of being out in the African bush.

Throughout your 12 day trip you will have the opportunity to visit various Tusk projects along the way. Your first project visit will be to the Tusk Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and a stay at Lewa House. This project works as a catalyst for the conservation of wildlife and its habitat. It does this through the protection and management of species, the initiation and support of community conservation and development programmes, and the education of neighbouring areas in the value of wildlife.

Next you will see the work of the Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust. Namunyak serves as a critical wildlife refuge for endangered species such as Grevy's zebra and African wild dog. It is also part of a crucial corridor for the Samburu/Laikipia elephant, linking national reserves in the south with the Mathews Range and the remote conservancies to the north and east. Here you will stay at Sarara Camp, which is very close to the project.

Following Namunyak you will visit the Borana Conservancy and stay at Borana Lodge. The Borana Conservancy is the non-profit conservation organisation dedicated to the sustainable conservation of critical habitat and wildlife. Borana's mission is to provide a sustainable ecosystem, in partnership with their neighbours and community, for critically endangered species on the brink of extinction. The holistic approach commits tourism, ranching and other enterprise to building local livelihoods and enhancing ecosystem integrity. Rhino conservation is a high priority and over 40 rhino have been moved here in the last two years for protection from poaching in other areas.

Lastly, you will be hosted at Mara Toto in the famous Masai Mara. Here you will visit the Koiyaki Guide School, which has produced some of the best guides in Africa. The school is situated on the Koiyaki Group Ranch neighbouring the Masai Mara National Reserve in southern Kenya. Established in 2005 with the help of Tusk, the school educates the local Masai in the tourism industry and other nature based enterprises, thereby providing employment opportunities and promoting and encouraging the long-term conservation of the unique Masai Mara ecosystem.

Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime trip to Kenya!

## Summary of Arrangements

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Day 1	Road transfer JKIA to Palacina Palacina - 1 night
Day 2	Road transfer Palacina to Wilson Fly Wilson to Lewa Lewa House - 2 nights
Day 4	Fly Lewa to Sarara Sarara Camp - 3 nights
Day 7	Road transfer Sarara to Borana Borana Lodge - 2 nights
Day 9	Fly Lewa to Masai Mara Mara Toto - 3 nights
Day 12	Fly Masai Mara to Wilson Road transfer Wilson to JKIA

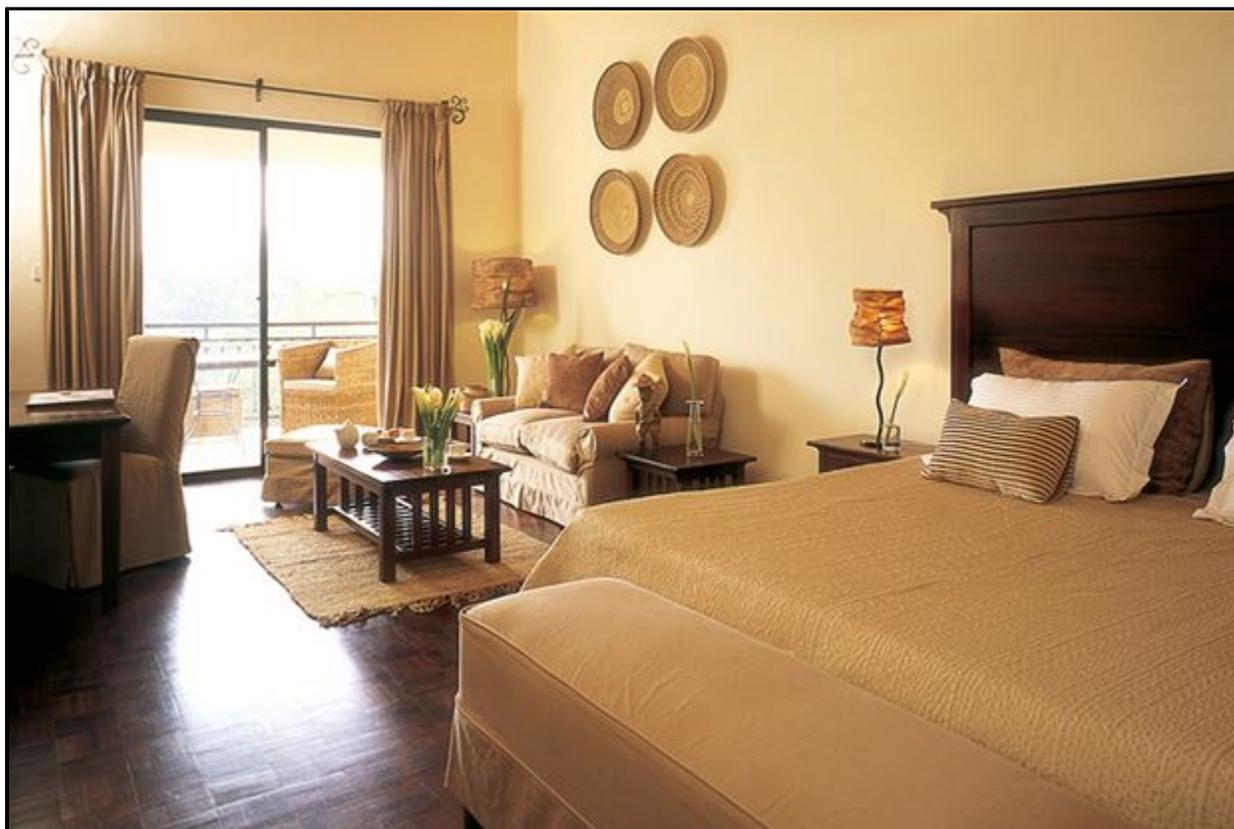
## Day 1

### Palacina - 1 night - Bed and Breakfast

Today you will arrive into Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Kenya. *You will be making your own arrangements for international air travel though we are happy to arrange flights for you if you wish.*

Upon arrival into JKIA you will clear Kenya immigration formalities, collect your luggage and proceed to the arrivals area. Your driver, who will be holding a sign bearing your name, will drive you to the Palacina Hotel.

You will stay here for one night in a double superior room on a bed and breakfast basis.



The Palacina is a small, stylish hotel located in the heart of Nairobi and is ideally situated for overnight stays on the way to or from a safari, or en-route to the coast. It has a very welcoming and flexible feel and excellent levels of service.

This intimate hotel consists of 16 impressive suites, all with a spacious bedroom, a sitting room, and a large bathroom. Each room has been elegantly decorated and has state-of-the-art facilities including a television, mini bar and DVD player. The communal areas comprise a bar, restaurant and a pool in beautifully maintained gardens. The amenities are completed with a fitness and spa room.

The Palacina is conveniently located a short distance from both the international and domestic airports and within easy reach of downtown Nairobi and various shopping centres.



## Day 2

### Lewa House - 2 nights - Full Board

This morning your driver will take you to Wilson, Nairobi's domestic Airport, where you will check in for your scheduled light aircraft flight to the Lewa Downs Wildlife Conservancy.

Upon arrival into the Lewa airstrip you will meet your guide who will take you to Lewa House via a game drive.

You will stay here for two nights in a double cottage on a full board basis. Your stay includes all meals, house drinks, laundry, shared day and night game drives, guided bush walks, one horse ride or camel walk per stay, and pre-historic site visits.

On one of your days here your guide will take you to see the amazing conservation work being done by Tusk in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. It is a private tour that few people get to see.



Owner-run and operated Lewa House is situated within the Lewa Downs Wildlife Conservancy in a prime location for observing plentiful wildlife, including many endangered species such as Grevy's Zebra, rhino and wild dog. The house and its rooms occupy a fabulous hill top position, providing guests with awe-inspiring views of beautiful Mount Kenya and the landscape that surrounds it.

Lewa House has seven cottage style rooms which are spread out along the hillside, all looking to the expanse of wilderness to the north. There are three original style thatched family cottages, each with two en-suite rooms and a large shared veranda, making them ideal for families. Four newly added single room cottages are built with sustainable, ecological principles in mind whilst still being exceptionally comfortable and spacious, with wonderful views across the surrounding landscape. The main dining area and comfortable lounge are the heart of this property that was once a family home. After a thrilling day spent exploring the bush with an expert guide, the large swimming pool, overlooking a waterhole, also offers a chance to unwind whilst providing a more relaxing way to witness game.

Guests are able to participate in a huge variety of exciting activities during their stay at Lewa House. As well as the traditional vehicle based day and night game drives, you can also enjoy fascinating guided bush walks, horse riding, and even unique trips through the conservancy on a camel.

Educational talks explaining the history of the Lewa Conservancy and how it is run on a day to day basis can also be arranged, as can visits to a nearby pre-historic archaeological site with fascinating rock art and an orphan rhino sanctuary. For a truly unique experience, meet the Conservancy's anti-poaching tracking dogs, participate in their training and see them at work. Thanks to the area's extraordinary biodiversity and natural beauty, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and the Ngare Ndare forest were recognized as part of the Mount Kenya World Heritage Site in 2013 as designated by UNESCO.



## Day 4

### Sarara Camp - 3 nights

Today you will be driven back to the Lewa airstrip in plenty of time for your light aircraft flight to Sarara airstrip. Upon arrival you will be met by your guide and taken on a game drive.

You will stay at Sarara Camp for three nights in a double tent on a full board basis. Your stay includes all meals, house wines and beers, soft drinks, laundry, shared day and night game drives, guided bush walks, hiking in the Mathews Range and fly camping.

On one of your days here, your guide will take you to see the work Tusk is doing with the local community and the Namunyak Wildlife Conservation Trust. This is a special chance to see the real change happening in this area.



Sarara is a tented eco camp owned by the local Samburu community and run by Jeremy Bastard whose family has many years of experience in safaris. Nestled into the lower slopes of Uarges, the highest peak of the Mathews Ranges, it has sweeping views of the great amphitheatre in the mountains. The area is a truly remote wilderness and the camp is the only one in an area of nearly 1 million acres, and has a most magical feel. It includes the extraordinary seasonal "singing" wells where the Samburu water their cattle. Profits from the lodge are divided among the local community and help to support local households, schools, school bursaries and other group ranch community operations.

Sarara Camp has been constructed from local materials with a spacious mess area under a large thatched roof with comfortable sofas, overlooking the natural rock swimming pool which itself overlooks a water hole where many animals come to drink. There are six double tents with en-suite bathrooms and additional outdoor showers and loos, and each also has its own verandah area with great views.

The Namunyak (the 'place of peace' in the Samburu language) conservancy has become a gathering place of large herds of elephant which migrate north from Laikipia in the south. General game is good and leopard are regularly sighted. Wild dog are again being seen in the area. Activities at Sarara include walks in the mountains and on the plains, day and night game drives, bush breakfasts and dinners, sundowners, fly-camping, visits to the "singing" wells, day trips to Samburu or Shaba Game Reserves and climbs up the sacred Lolokwe Mountain which is covered with cedar forest and other exotic plants which are endemic to the area.



## Day 7

### Borana Lodge - 2 nights

This morning your guide will transfer you by road to Borana Lodge. Upon arrival at Borana Lodge you will meet your guide who will take you on a game drive.

You will stay at Borana Lodge for two nights in a double chalet on a full board basis. Your stay includes all meals, sundowner excursions, house drinks, laundry, day and night game drives, bush walks, horse riding and mountain biking.

During your time here, your guide will take you on a private tour to view the fantastic work carried out by Tusk and the Borana Conservancy project.



Borana is a privately owned and run lodge in Kenya's remote Laikipia area. The lodge has a spectacular setting on a hillside in the shadow of Mount Kenya's jagged peaks.

The eight stone and thatch cottages cluster around the main lodge. Each has an open fireplace, en-suite bathroom with shower and bath, dressing room and private veranda. Furniture fashioned of cedar, leather and hand painted fabrics enhance the rustic yet sophisticated interiors. An infinity pool overlooks a waterhole regularly visited by game, particularly elephant which frequently swim in the lake. Guests can enjoy delicious home cooking that ranges from the traditional to the exotic.

Game viewing is excellent, with day and night drives possible both locally and in the reserves nearby. In addition fly fishing on Mount Kenya, bird watching, swimming, riding and guided walks through the forest are also available.



## Day 9

### Mara Toto - 3 nights - Full Board

This morning you will be flown by scheduled light aircraft to the Masai Mara. Upon arrival your guide will transfer you to Mara Toto via a game drive.

You will stay at Mara Toto for three nights in a double tent on a full board basis. Your stay includes all meals, house drinks, scheduled shared game viewing activities and laundry.

During your stay here your guide will take you on a behind the scenes visit to the Koiyaki Guide School and you will see Tusk's work in the local Masai community.



Mara Toto Camp sits in a patch of riverine forest on the edge of the Ntiakitiak River. The camp has a peaceful setting in a prime wildlife area of the Masai Mara, close to the edge of the reserve and the adjacent Mara North Conservancy.

Mara Toto comprises just five light and airy canvas tents which are decorated with expedition-style furnishings. Each tent has a private verandah, dressing area and en-suite bathroom with piping hot water delivered from a huge brass 'safari shower'. The expansive mess tent, draped in light-coloured canvas, is romantic and inviting, but also highly functional as a place to gather, join photo workshops, and dine. The adjacent library is a lovely place to read, rest or relax. The spaces are filled with hand-picked pieces from African markets.

You can experience both the intense action of the Masai Mara ecosystem and the peaceful game viewing offered by the private 70,000 acre Mara North Conservancy with morning and afternoon game drives in customised Land Cruisers, which are equipped with fully stocked refrigerators and inverters. The area around camp is famous for resident leopards patrolling the riverbanks, and the camp itself is well positioned to take advantage of two migrations: the famous annual wildebeest migration and the green season migration from Loita Plains, where an additional 50,000 wildebeest and over 100,000 zebras head west looking for grazing. Visits to local school and community projects can also be arranged whilst staying here.



## **Day 12**

### **Fly Masai Mara to Wilson**

Today your guide will drive you back to the local airstrip in plenty of time for your scheduled light aircraft flight to Wilson Airport. Upon arrival into Wilson you will be met and driven to JKIA for your international flight home.

*You will be making your own arrangements for international air travel though we are happy to arrange flights for you if you wish.*

## Pricing Details

### The itinerary includes:

Internal flights (note: strict 15kgs soft sided luggage allowance per person including hand luggage - no wheels or frames) *Please be aware that scheduled light aircraft flights may make a couple of stops before reaching your destination; please let us know if you would like to know the cost of upgrading to a direct private flight*

Private light aircraft charters

Passenger and airport taxes

Airport transfers

Other transfers

Accommodation and meals as stated

Drinks as stated

Laundry as stated

Activities as stated *Please be aware that all game viewing activities quoted are on a shared basis. Most camps tend to operate game drives with approximately six guests per vehicle. If you would prefer to have use of a private guide and vehicle for your safari this can easily be arranged in advance; please let us know if you would like to know the cost of upgrading to private use.*

National Park and concession fees

Immediate concession or reserve fees in the Masai Mara area

### The itinerary excludes:

International flights into and out of Africa

Visas

Travel insurance

Tips and gratuities

Neighbouring concession or reserve fees in the Masai Mara area

Other personal spending

If you weigh over 16 stone or 100 kg then you may be charged for a second seat on light aircraft flights, please let us know if this is likely to affect you.

### Aardvark Holiday Prices

Unlike many other companies, we forward buy the foreign currency needed to pay for a booking at the time a trip is confirmed. We will not therefore surcharge you because of exchange rate fluctuations after receipt of your deposit.

**Please ask your hosts at Mara Toto to assist you with checking in online for your international and regional flights 24 hours before your return.**

(The below price is an approximate value to do this trip as a private safari. No value has been added for the private hosting and tours at the Tusk projects).

---

**Total price for your travel arrangements: £19,000**

---

Price per person: £9,500

---

## Why Choose Aardvark Safaris?

### **Honest independent advice from knowledgeable and experienced Africa experts.**

We've all lived and worked in Africa and tailor make high quality holidays in areas we know and love. We use camps and lodges we've tried and tested, and understand the importance of working with some of Africa's best guides and hosts. We listen to your wishes and use our experience to tailor a safari that suits you perfectly. We will provide hassle free arrangements including full itinerary planning, providing the most effective routings and avoiding unnecessary (and costly) stopovers. We are completely impartial in our advice (no-one at Aardvark works on commission).

### **Holidays with 100% financial protection.**

These bonds protect you should either we, or our suppliers, cease trading. Please remember that if you do decide to book direct with companies in Africa, or through a non-bonded company here in the UK, your money is at risk.

### **Avoid the pitfalls of booking direct with an African operator.**

Booking direct you have zero financial protection. Can you pay with a credit card? If so what are the hidden charges? If you cannot pay by credit card then you will have to arrange a money transfer at your expense. When you get there what happens if nobody is there to meet you? If you have any complaints with the quality of your holiday how do you try and arrange compensation, you have very limited rights. Our registration number is 3800138 and our status can be checked at Companies House.

### **You pay no more booking through Aardvark than if you arranged the holiday yourselves.**

Typically there are no additional costs to you for having the benefit of our advice. Our suppliers pay us a commission for each booking which is how we make our profit. In some instances we are able to plan trips more cheaply than you would yourselves. If you think that we are charging you more for accommodation or services than you can find direct, we are happy to look at the difference and see if we can remedy the situation. If you would like a breakdown of the quote, we will happily provide this.

We can't guarantee to be competitive with flight prices as sales and special offers released on airline websites sometimes undercut the rates we are given direct by the airlines. If you can find cheaper flights than us you are welcome to book these independently of our travel arrangements.

### **Once a trip is confirmed we will not charge you for any currency fluctuations.**

The price of your holiday stays the same even if there are currency movements before you travel. We buy in our currency when you pay your deposit covering you against fluctuations.

### **There if you need us - 24 hours 7 days a week emergency phone cover.**

We provide a full emergency back up service, both from ourselves and through local representatives on the ground, in case you have any difficulties whilst you are away.

### **Service doesn't stop when you leave the UK, you get great service in Africa too.**

We've worked with the majority of our suppliers for years and by visiting regularly we know we're still working with the best. By speaking to clients after they've travelled we feed back their thanks and occasionally niggles too which helps to keep standards high.

### **Committed to looking after the environment.**

Our holidays allow you to enjoy wildlife, local communities and remote areas of Africa, and conservation is important to us. We work hard to ensure that the benefits tourism can bring to an area are not offset by negative impacts. We offer our clients the chance to offset the carbon emission caused by their long-haul flights with a scheme in Zambia which not only absorbs carbon dioxide but which also provides food and employment. We have also supported the Koiyaki Guide School in the Masai Mara since its inception, giving local people the chance to take a part in the future of their area.

### **Recommendations are at the heart of our business and we are able to supply you with a reference.**

Over 70% of our clients come to us through recommendation and several of our clients are on their second or third trip with us. Although we are now fifteen years old, we are a small company and have retained our personal touch with the owners still involved with sales on a day to day basis. See the testimonials page of our website to see what clients say about us. Let us know if you would like to speak to a past client.