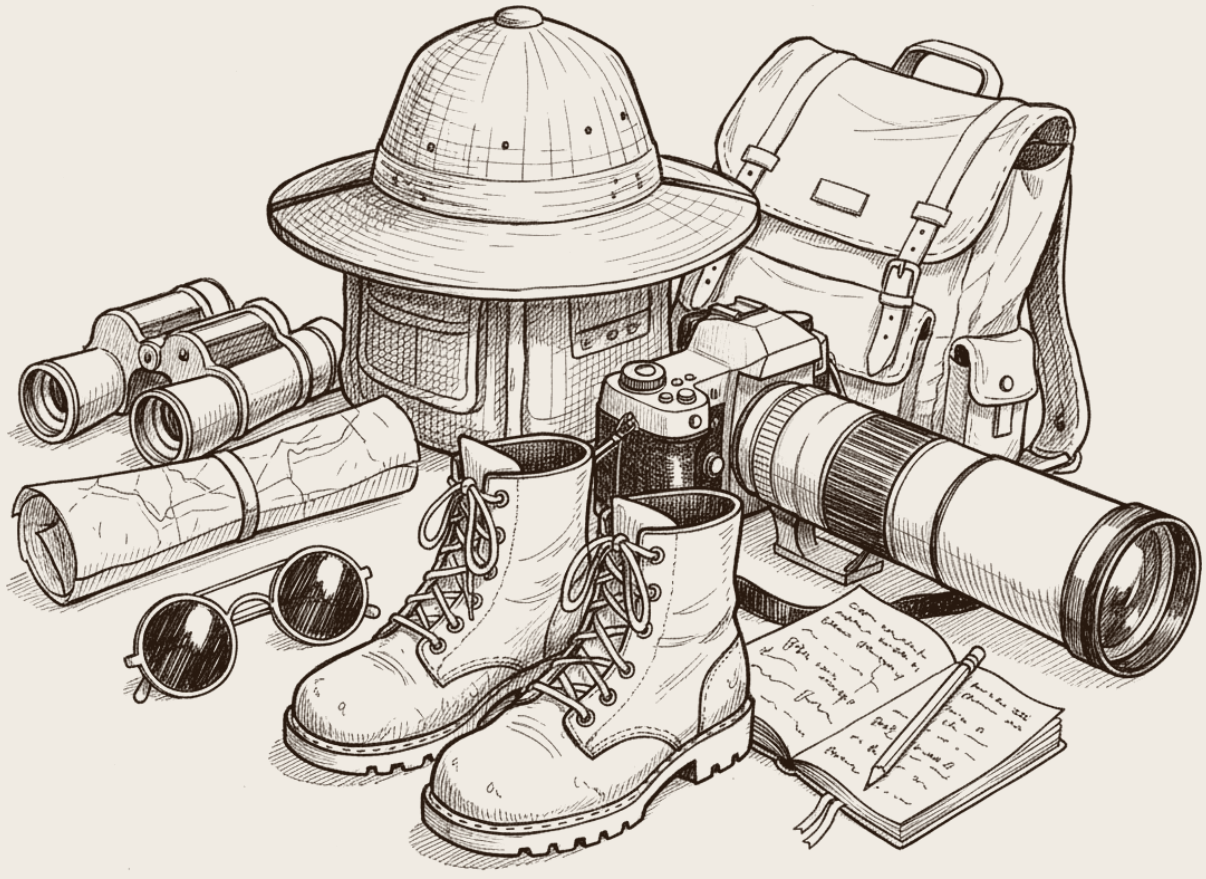
Soroi COLLECTION

Journey Guide

for Samburu



your friendly guide to getting here, getting ready and getting going

SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE, KENYA

HELLO, SAMBURU

you're booked, so let's get you packed

Congratulations, you are going to Samburu! This little guide has everything you need before you travel: how to get here, what to know about Kenya, and what to pack. Read it with a cup of tea, then pack.

SETTING	Samburu National Reserve, on the Ewaso Ng'iro River. The lodge is unfenced, so wildlife moves through the grounds.
CLIMATE	Daytime temperatures average 20 to 30°C in the Kenyan highlands and are warmer at the coast, with cooler mornings and evenings.
STYLE	Safari casual. Neutral, breathable clothing by day and a light layer by night.
GAME DRIVES	Morning drives leave at 6:00 am, with a picnic breakfast or breakfast back at the lodge until 10:00 am. Afternoon drives run 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm.
GETTING HERE	About 5 to 6 hours by road from Nairobi, or a short flight to Kalama airstrip, about 45 minutes from the lodge.
POWER	Solar power with a backup generator. UK-style three-pin plugs at 240V, with adapters provided at camp.
LAUNDRY	Complimentary at Larsens Camp. At Samburu Lodge, laundry is back within 24 hours, weather permitting.

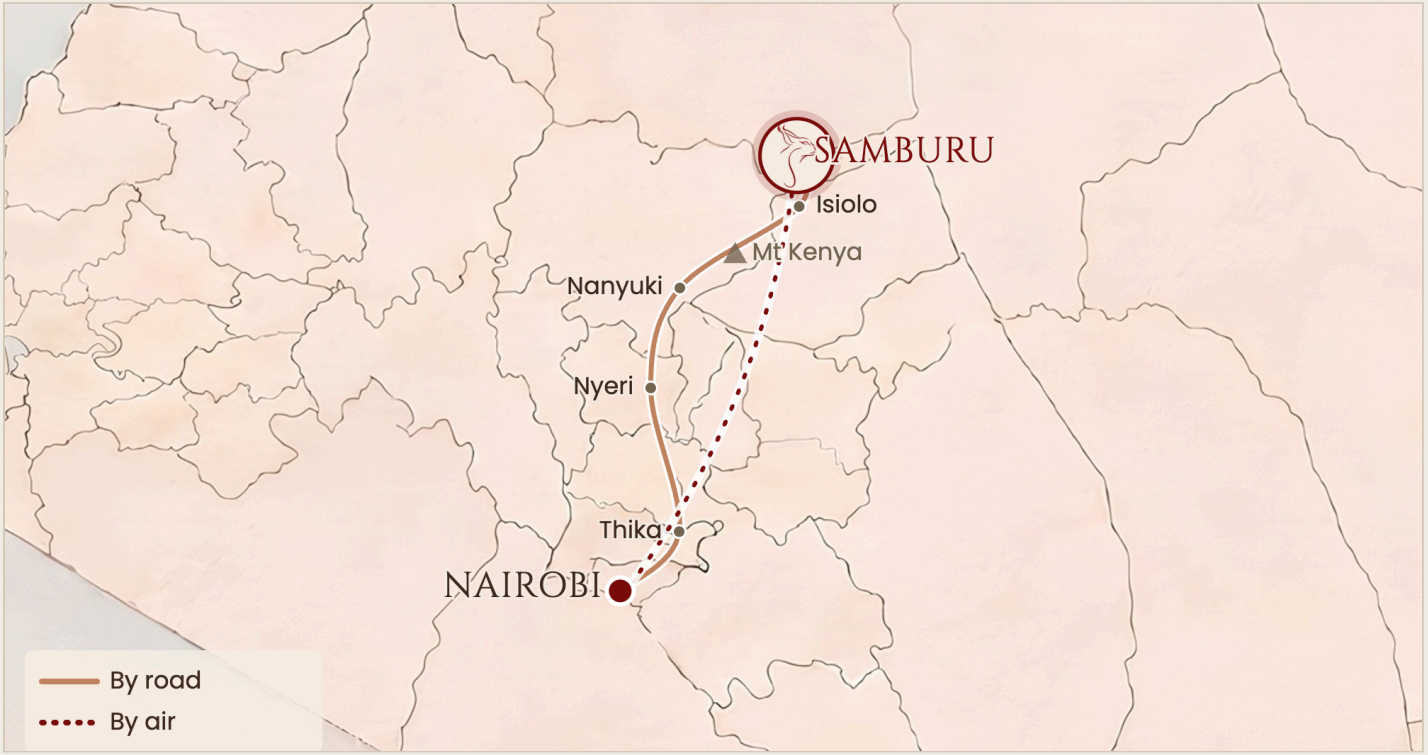


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GETTING HERE

by air, by road, or by rail

Most guests fly, and the drive is a scenic day past Mount Kenya.



BY AIR

- Daily scheduled flights from Wilson Airport in Nairobi, about 1 to 1.5 hours depending on stops.
- Land at Kalama or Buffalo Springs airstrip.
- Operators include Safarilink and AirKenya.

BY ROAD

- About 300 to 350 km, 5 to 6 hours from Nairobi.
- Via Thika, Nyeri, Nanyuki, Isiolo and Archer's Post, past Mount Kenya.

TRANSFERS

- Larsens Camp: about 35 minutes from Kalama, 30 from Buffalo Springs.
- Samburu Lodge: about 45 minutes from Kalama.
- Game viewing starts on the drive in.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Light aircraft leave from Wilson Airport, not the international airport (JKIA), so allow time to transfer between them.
- Soft bags only, with light-aircraft weight limits. Domestic flights allow 15 kg per person including hand luggage.
- There are no direct scheduled flights between Soroi destinations, so connect through Nairobi.

ON ARRIVAL DAY

from the airstrip to your first drink

A quick run-through of what happens when you land, so nothing is a surprise.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

- Reservations will send your flight or transfer details before you travel.
- Keep documents, medication, a warm layer and your camera in your hand luggage.

MEETING YOU

- A Soroi guide or driver greets you at Kalama or Buffalo Springs airstrip, or at the lodge if you drive.
- Your guide will tell you about the drive in, and game viewing often starts on the way.

WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- You will receive a welcome note with your manager's name and number. Save the number in your phone.
- Check-in from 12:00 pm.
- Your manager will talk you through the property, meal times and your first activity.

IF SOMETHING CHANGES

- Flight delayed, bag late or running behind? Call your manager's number, or reservations on +254 754 351 908.
- Light-aircraft and train schedules can shift, so build in a little slack.



DOCUMENTS AND INSURANCE

sort these before you leave home

Kenya's entry rules changed in 2026. Everything below is for most foreign visitors, so check the official portals for your own nationality.

YOUR ETA AND PASSPORT

- Apply for your electronic travel authorisation (eTA) well before you fly, at etakenya.go.ke, and carry a copy.
- Passport valid for at least 6 months, with at least 2 consecutive blank pages (3 or 4 if you are travelling through several countries).
- Keep a digital copy of your passport, itinerary and insurance.

KENYA HEALTH INSURANCE (NEW)

- From 6 October 2026, foreign visitors staying less than 12 months need Kenyan health insurance bought through the government portal. East African Community citizens are exempt.
- It costs US$44 per person, children included, plus small system and gateway charges at checkout.
- Buy it during your eTA application, or beforehand at insurance.ecitizen.go.ke. The two portals recognise each other. Use government portals only.
- No policy document is issued. Save your reference number and a screenshot of the "Valid" status.
- Details are still being clarified, so check the official portals before you fly, or ask reservations.

YOUR OWN TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Travel insurance is a requirement for all our guests: medical emergencies, medical evacuation, trip curtailment and loss of belongings.
- Medical evacuation is not included in our rates.
- The government portal does not currently accept a policy from another company, so keep your own cover as well.
- Insure your camera and video equipment and personal items too.

WHAT WE MAY ASK YOU FOR

- Your travel insurance details, passport numbers, an emergency contact, date of birth and blood group, for our records.

MONEY AND TIPPING

small notes make life easier

A few practical notes on paying for things and saying thank you.

CURRENCY

- The Kenyan shilling (KES). Exchange is available at airports, hotels and banks.
- ATMs dispense shillings only.
- Carry your passport or other photo ID, as proof of identity may be requested.

CARDS AND CASH

- Major credit cards are accepted at hotels, lodges and shops, but a surcharge of about 5% is often added.
- Bring some small notes (5s, 10s and 20s) for tipping. We recommend US dollar bills printed in 2013 or later.

KEEPING CASH SAFE

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, and spread it across different bags.
- Never leave luggage unattended, and keep valuables close or locked away.

TIPPING

- Tipping is never obliged, but it is warmly appreciated.
- Suggested: US$3 to 5 per day for porterage, stewards and housekeeping, and US$10 per person per day for your driver/guide.
- Use the tip box at reception for the whole team, or tip any standout staff member personally. Tip your driver/guide separately.
- Staff should never ask for tips or gifts for their families. If this happens, please tell us.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

the sensible bits

Kenya is generally a low-risk destination, and a few simple precautions keep it that way.

HEALTH

- We advise malaria prevention. See your doctor or a travel clinic 6 to 8 weeks before you travel about vaccinations.
- A yellow fever vaccination and certificate are needed for travellers from India, South America, Singapore or across the tropics.
- This is a general guide, not a substitute for your travel doctor. Carry personal medication in your hand luggage.

DRINKING WATER

- Mineral water is available at all Soroi Collection properties and in all shops and restaurants, and is provided in every room.
- Use it for brushing your teeth too, and drink more than you are used to while on safari.

DANGERS OF THE BUSH

- Always listen to your guide and follow instructions carefully.
- Do not walk alone after dark, or outside the limits of camp.
- Do not get out of the safari vehicle without first asking your guide.
- The animals may look relaxed, but they are wild and can be dangerous. None are tame, and none should be approached.

PARK RULES

- Our properties sit in protected reserves and conservancies, each with its own rules.
- Read the park rules at camp, or ask your guide or manager for a copy.

KENYA IN A NUTSHELL

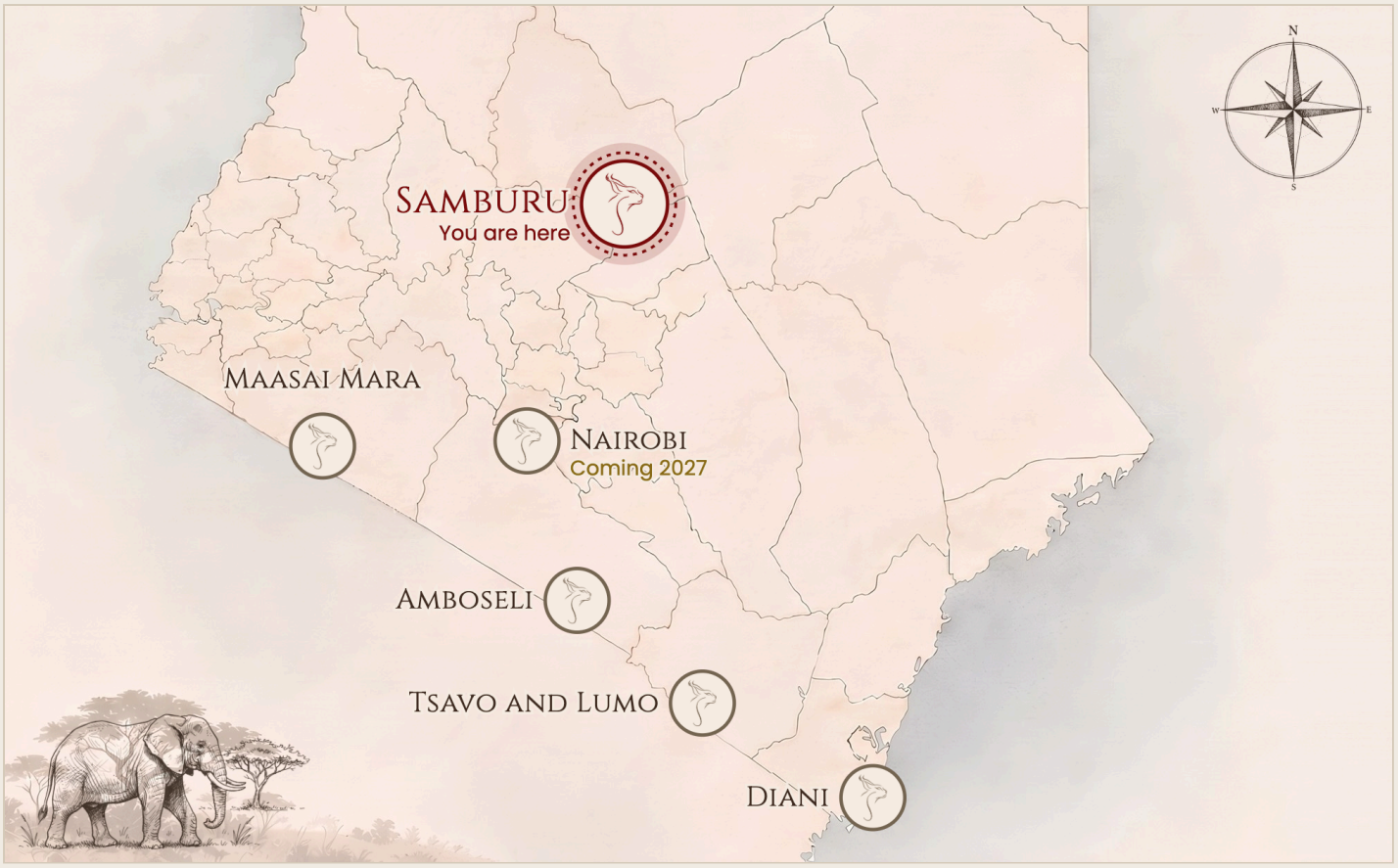
the quick-reference page

The practical basics, all in one place.

TIME	East Africa Time (UTC+3) all year. Kenya does not use daylight saving.
LANGUAGE	English and Kiswahili are widely spoken, especially in towns, lodges and hotels.
CLIMATE	Kenya lies on the equator, with altitude shaping the weather. Highland daytime temperatures average 20 to 30°C, and the coast is warmer. There is no real winter or summer, only dry and wet seasons.
DRIVING	Kenya drives on the left. Your Soroi driver or guide takes care of the roads.
POWER	220 to 240V, 50Hz, with UK-style three-pin plugs. Our camps have 24-hour electricity with backup generators, and adapters are provided at each camp. On request, an inverter in your safari vehicle charges camera batteries and phones.
CONNECTIVITY	Phone coverage and Wi-Fi are available, and Wi-Fi is strongest in reception, dining and lounge areas. In the bush, occasional network outages happen.
LUGGAGE	Pack in soft bags, 15 to 20 kg per person. Domestic flights allow 15 kg per person including hand luggage. Luggage can be stored at your hotel or our Nairobi office during your safari.
LAUNDRY	Complimentary laundry at Private Wing, Luxury Migration Camp, Larsens Camp, Soroi Amboseli and Lions Bluff Lodge. Other properties vary, so ask reservations.
PLASTIC	Single-use plastic bags have been banned in Kenya since 28 August 2017. Do not bring any in, as fines are strict and high, and remove them from luggage and purchases before you fly. Single-use plastic such as straws, bottles and cutlery is also banned in parks and reserves.

THE SOROI COLLECTION

six destinations, one Kenya



MAASAI MARA

- Soroi Mara Bush Camp
- Soroi Private Wing
- Soroi Luxury Migration Camp

NAIROBI

- Soroi Nairobi, inside Nairobi National Park (coming 2027)

SAMBURU

- Soroi Larsens Camp
- Soroi Samburu Lodge

AMBOSELI

- Soroi Amboseli

TSAVO AND LUMO

- Soroi Lions Bluff Lodge
- Soroi Leopards Lair
- Soroi Cheetah Tented Camp

DIANI

- Soroi Blue Diani

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PEOPLE AND GIVING BACK

meeting Kenya well

Soroi is passionate about philanthropy and sustainability. A few guidelines help your visit do good.

WHO YOU MIGHT MEET

- Kenya is home to over 40 ethnic groups, each with its own dialect.
- Around our properties you are likely to meet Taita, Samburu and Maasai communities.
- Cultural visits are encouraged. Ask your manager, travel agent or reservations consultant when you book, or during your stay.

PHOTOGRAPHING PEOPLE

- Always ask permission first. Not everyone will agree.
- Ask your driver or guide before photographing local communities.
- Never photograph State houses, airports, military installations, police stations, government facilities, border posts, soldiers or police. It is strictly prohibited.

GIVING BACK WISELY

- Please do not hand out money or gifts to locals. It goes against responsible tourism practice.
- Soroi works with community projects and schools. Ask your manager how to help.
- Pens, pencils, school supplies and clothing are valued, but a donation saves your luggage allowance and makes sure communities receive what they really need.

COMMUNITY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

- Every booking contributes directly to our NGO, Community & Wildlife Conservation (community-wildlife.org).
- It supports communities with food donations, educational materials and job opportunities.
- It also funds anti-poaching work, tree planting to protect biodiversity, and education in remote villages.

SAFARI MANNERS

how to be a good guest in the wild

Our guides drive safari-equipped 4WD Land Cruisers. A few simple habits keep you, the animals and everyone around you happy.

IN THE VEHICLE

- Stay seated and inside the vehicle unless your guide says it is safe.
- Keep voices low and movements slow near wildlife.
- Never feed, call or throw anything at animals.
- Take every piece of litter back with you.

AROUND CAMP

- Stay within camp limits, and do not walk alone after dark.
- Zip your tent closed and keep food out of it.
- Never approach or feed monkeys.

WITH PEOPLE

- A smile and a "jambo" go a long way.
- Ask before photographing anyone.
- Please do not hand out money or gifts. Ask your manager how to help.
- Dress modestly in villages and at cultural sites.

LOOKING AFTER THE LAND

- Stay on the tracks and keep to your guide's route.
- Leave rocks, plants, shells and feathers where they are.
- Use water thoughtfully, especially in the dry season.



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A FEW WORDS OF SWAHILI

pole pole, you will get there

A little Swahili is always appreciated. Try these on your guide, your host and everyone you meet.

SWAHILI	SAY IT	IT MEANS
Jambo	JAHM-boh	Hello
Karibu	kah-REE-boo	Welcome
Asante (sana)	ah-SAHN-teh (SAH-nah)	Thank you (very much)
Tafadhali	tah-fah-DAH-lee	Please
Sawa	SAH-wah	OK, fine, agreed
Pole pole	POH-leh POH-leh	Slowly, slowly
Pole	POH-leh	I'm sorry (for your trouble)
Hakuna matata	hah-KOO-nah mah-TAH-tah	No worries
Ndiyo / Hapana	n-DEE-yoh / hah-PAH-nah	Yes / No
Kwaheri	kwah-HEH-ree	Goodbye

Pole pole is also a very good way to run a safari.

DRESS FOR THE BUSH

layers, layers, layers

Mornings start cool and the heat builds fast, so think in layers you can add and remove as the day goes on.

ON SAFARI

Neutral tops, long and short sleeve
Khaki, olive, tan and soft browns blend in and hide dust.

Lightweight long trousers
Sun and scrub protection on drives and walks.

A warm layer for 6:00 am
A fleece or light jacket. You will peel it off as the sun climbs.

Wide-brimmed hat or cap

UV-protective sunglasses

Buff or light scarf
Keeps the dust off your face.

Light rain jacket
Showers are possible in the wetter months.

AROUND THE LODGE

Swimwear
The infinity pool is open 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Cover-up or sarong

Light, breathable day wear
Shorts, dresses and linen shirts all work.

Comfortable sandals

EVENINGS

Light long sleeves and trousers
Fireside drinks start from 6:00 pm, and covered skin keeps the insects off.

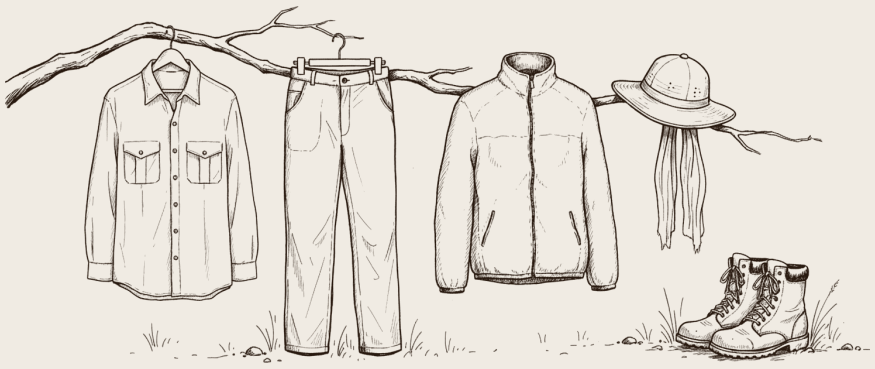
A jumper or wrap
For the sundowner deck.

One smart-casual outfit
Entirely optional, for dinner.

PACKING FOR THREE NIGHTS

- 3 to 4 tops, 2 pairs of trousers and 1 pair of shorts or a skirt is plenty.
- Laundry comes back within 24 hours, so there is no need to pack for every day.
- Leave a little room for souvenirs from the lodge's local artisans.

Pro tip: skip bright white (it shows every speck of dust) and camouflage prints (not permitted in Kenya).



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FEET, GEAR AND FIRST AID

the small stuff that saves the day

None of this is glamorous, all of it is useful.

FOOTWEAR

- **Closed walking shoes or light boots**
  For nature walks and uneven ground.
- **Sandals or flip-flops**
  For the lodge.
- **Socks**
  Breathable cotton or merino.

SUN AND INSECTS

- **High-SPF sunscreen**
- **Lip balm with SPF**
- **Insect repellent**
  Evenings and early mornings, especially near the river.
- **After-bite relief**

HEALTH

- **Personal medication**
  Carry it in your hand luggage, with a copy of the prescription.
- **Basic first-aid kit**
  Plasters, antiseptic, rehydration salts and antihistamines.
- **Malaria prophylaxis**
  As advised by your doctor before you travel.
- **Hand sanitiser and wipes**

USEFUL GEAR

- **Binoculars**
  8x42 or 10x42 suit most guests.
- **Small daypack**
  For drives, hides and picnic stops.
- **Reusable water bottle**
  Filtered mineral water is at the bar and in-room dispensers.
- **Power bank and plug adapter**
- **Zip-lock bags**
  Dust protection for phones and cameras.

Good to know: the lodge has a resident nurse and can arrange transport to the nearest medical facility if needed.



FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHERS

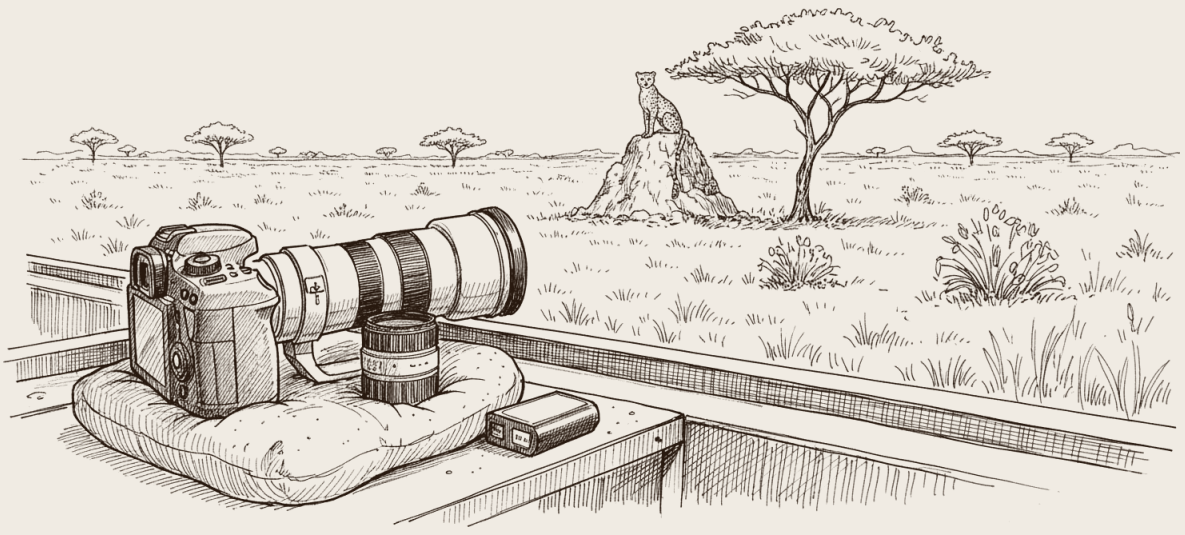
what to bring for the good light

Samburu is home to the Samburu Special 5 and more than 400 bird species, and the lodge's Underground Photographers Hide is reached straight from the camp.

WHERE	SUGGESTED KIT	TIP
Game drives	Telephoto zoom (100-400mm or similar), a standard zoom, beanbag	Switch the engine off when you shoot. It steadies the frame.
Underground Hide	70-200mm zoom, wide-angle (16-35mm), a longer lens if you own one	At ground level, subjects can come very close, so a wide-angle is as useful as a long lens.
Birds	400mm or longer, or a teleconverter	Try the guided bird walk along the Ewaso Ng'iro forest line to warm up.
Dawn and dusk	Fast prime lens (f/1.8-f/2.8), a body that handles high ISO	Drives leave at 6:00 am, and the best light is often the first and last hour.
Dust care	Blower, microfibre cloths, lens hoods, zip-lock bags	Change lenses inside the vehicle, away from open windows.
Power and storage	Spare batteries, extra memory cards, power bank	Cool mornings drain batteries faster. Charge fully every night.

CAMERA BAG CHECKLIST

- [ ] Camera body, plus a spare if you have one
- [ ] Lenses to suit the table above
- [ ] Beanbag for the vehicle
- [ ] Spare batteries and charger
- [ ] Extra memory cards
- [ ] Blower and microfibre cloths
- [ ] Rain cover
- [ ] Laptop or drive for nightly backup



THE UNDERGROUND HIDE

shhh, the animals are coming

A hide rewards quiet and preparation. A few simple habits make the difference between a good session and a great one.

HOW IT WORKS

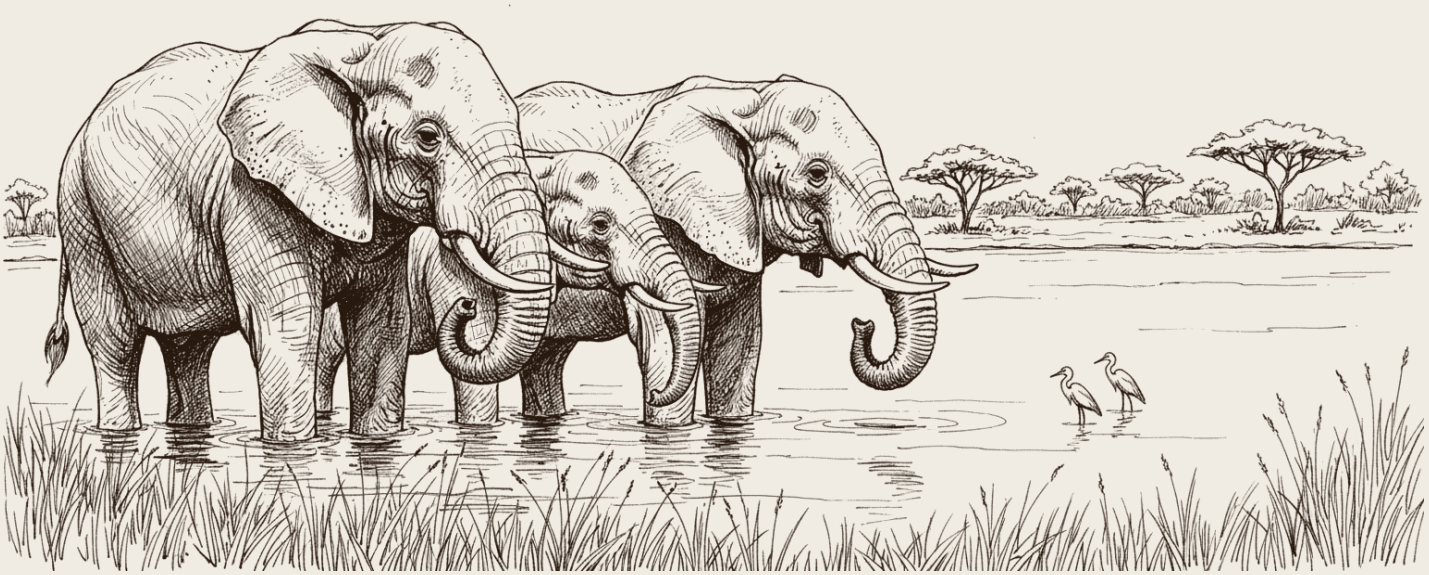
- The hide is reached directly from the camp.
- Comfortable swivel chairs, with a maximum of four guests.
- Shared or exclusive use, subject to availability.
- Book ahead through reservations or the Lodge Manager. Pricing is available on request.

HIDE ETIQUETTE

- Arrive quietly and keep conversation to a whisper.
- Silent shutter on, phone sounds off, and no flash.
- Slow movements, dark plain clothing, no strong perfume or aftershave.
- Bring water.

CAMERA MANNERS ELSEWHERE

- Ask before photographing people, including Samburu community members and our staff.
- Respect other guests' privacy on the deck, at the pool and in the dining room.
- Follow your guide's instructions near wildlife, always.



LIFE AT THE LODGE

what to expect when you arrive

A few practical details so nothing surprises you.

ROOMS AND SERVICES

- Check-in from 12:00 pm and check-out by 10:00 am. Ask the Lodge Manager about late check-out.
- A safe in every room. Please leave the door open on checkout.
- Turn-down service, with hot water bottles on request. Pool towels are at the pool, so leave yours at home.
- Laundry is back within 24 hours, weather permitting. Please handle your own undergarments.
- Wi-Fi is available. Ask at reception for the password. Wi-Fi is strongest in the main areas, and the bush can bring occasional outages.

ECO-LODGE HABITS

- Room lights are solar-powered. Please switch them off when you leave, and tell the Lodge Manager if you plan to use high-power appliances.
- No single-use plastics here. Filtered mineral water is at the bar and in-room dispensers.
- A steel bucket catches cold water while the shower warms up. It is reused for cleaning and watering plants.

MEALS

- Breakfast 6:30 to 10:00 am, lunch 1:00 to 2:30 pm, dinner 7:30 to 9:30 pm.
- Tell the Lodge Manager about dietary requirements before or on arrival, and let your guide know the day before if you want a picnic breakfast or lunch.

STAYING SAFE

- The lodge is unfenced. Guards protect it 24 hours a day, and an askari will walk you around at night. Please do not walk alone after dark.
- The pool has no lifeguard. Children use the children's pool with a parent or guardian.
- Smoking is only in the designated zones outside your room.



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A WORD ON DRONES

we get asked this a lot

Please leave the drone at home.

Drones are prohibited in the conservation areas where our camps are, including Samburu. Drones disturb wildlife and other guests, and in Kenya they also need permits from the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority.

Can I fly a drone at the property?

No. Drones are not permitted in the conservation areas where we operate.

Can I bring one into Kenya?

Drones are regulated and may need to be declared on arrival, so check current requirements. They still cannot be flown at our properties.

Why so strict?

Wildlife, guest privacy and the area's own rules come first.

BEST LEFT AT HOME

- Drones (not permitted in conservation areas)
- Single-use plastic bags, which are banned in Kenya and attract high fines
- Camouflage and bright white clothing
- Valuable jewellery you would hate to lose



SEASONS AT A GLANCE

any month works, the bag just changes

Samburu can be visited all year. Kenya has no real winter or summer, only dry and wet seasons, and what changes is the landscape and what you will want in your bag.

SEASON	WHAT TO EXPECT	ADD TO YOUR BAG
Warmer months (December to mid-March)	Warm days and big skies.	Sun hat, extra sunscreen, lightweight cotton
Long rains (late March to May)	Lush and quiet, with the heaviest showers. Rainy seasons bring quieter parks and vibrant greenery.	Waterproof jacket, closed shoes, insect repellent
Cooler months (July and August)	Cooler and often overcast, so mornings and evenings are chilly.	A warm fleece for early starts and evenings
Short rains (late October to November)	Greener landscape, with showers.	Light rain jacket, quick-dry layers

Whatever the month, layers are the best thing you can pack.



SEE YOU SOON

Questions before you travel?

Our reservations team is happy to help with transfers, dietary needs, photography requests and anything on this list you are unsure about.



The Samburu Special 5: Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, Beisa oryx, gerenuk and Somali ostrich. How many will you spot?