

A Safari with Renowned Artist & Conservationist Guy Combes

Join Guy on safari to his homeland of Kenya while supporting conservation

Proceeds to benefit the Artists for Conservation Foundation and Soysambu Boma Project

- 'A Fleeting Glimpse' by Guy Combes -



Overland Comfort Adventure

Your Art Host: **Guy Combes** Dates: **13th – 24th July, 2019**

Designed & planned in detail by:



JACKSON'S African Safaris

Guy Combes

As a native of Kenya, Guy will be your Artist host throughout your tour to answer as best he can any questions about wildlife, culture and his love of Kenya. Each vehicle will have a professional local driver guide who will take care of any needs throughout the trip, and take care of all logistics, Guy's focus is to spend quality time with you all and will rotate vehicles accordingly. Guy is very familiar with the land, and in particular Soysambu, where he lived and acted as guide for many years before moving to the USA, and even since then has returned with groups of conservation biology students and artist friends. Guy's father, Simon, had a long and profound connection with Soysambu and Nakuru, and Guy will take you to many of the places that inspired his career as an artist. He will retrace his father's footsteps as a conservationist, and introduce you to the legacy that has paved the way for him to continue to champion the cause here at Soysambu Conservancy, which will include raising money for the Boma Project which you will learn about first hand with Guy on Soysambu: <http://www.soysambuconservancy.org/>

A Safari with Renowned Artist & Conservationist Guy Combes

April 2018: Leopard photographed by Timothy Jackson while with Guy Combes on Soysambu Conservancy, this delightful sighting resulted in Guys featured painting on this trips cover - 'A Fleeting Glimpse' by Guy Combes.



Saturday, 13th July, 2019

Arrive Nairobi

On arrival into Nairobi you will be met by your guides/drivers and transferred to the Ole Sereni Hotel to rest and relax.

Ole Sereni (No meals provided today as arrival times may vary – any meals pay direct)

<https://www.ole-sereni.com/>

Sunday, 14th July, 2019

Nairobi

During breakfast this morning, meeting at a time established on arrival, Guy Combes with your driver guides will give a short 'Welcome to Kenya' and provide you with any information needed for the day from their wealth of knowledge. After breakfast we will transfer to the David Sheldrick Elephant orphanage, for feeding time at 11am, followed by a visit to the Giraffe Center. Lunch today will be at the Talisman: <http://www.thetalismanrestaurant.com/about/>

After lunch based on how much time we have, options will be given such as visiting the Karen Blixen Museum, The Beads Center, and any Langata link shops, for anything you may need before we leave Nairobi tomorrow. We will then take some time back at the hotel before we head out to dinner tonight at the Nyama Mama Restaurant:

<https://akinyiadongo.wordpress.com/2017/01/17/nyama-mama-restaurant-nairobi-a-daring-reinvention-of-kenyan-food/>

Ole Sereni (BLD)

Monday, 15th July, 2019

Nairobi - Samburu National Park

Today, we have an early departure from Nairobi and drive north through the Kikuyu countryside and central highlands, past the equator and on to the northern frontier into Samburu Country. Approximate drive time – 5 hours, we will arrive in time for lunch at your new home for the next three nights; Elephant Bedroom. After lunch you will have time to settle in, then a cup of tea and head out to enjoy an afternoon game drive in the park.

Elephant bedroom Camp (BLD)

<https://www.atua-enkop.com/elephant-bedroom-camp>

Samburu National Reserve: *The Samburu National Reserve is located on the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River, in the Samburu District of the Rift Valley Province. It is 165 km² in size and 350 kilometers from Nairobi. The Ewaso Nyiro River flows through doum palm groves and thick riverine forests which provide water, without which the game in the reserve could not survive in this arid country. Samburu Reserve was one of the two areas in which conservationists George Adamson and Joy Adamson raised Elsa the Lioness made famous in the bestselling book and award winning movie Born Free. Samburu Reserve is also the home of Kamunyak, a lioness famous for adopting Oryx calves.*

Elephant Bedroom Camp: *Set on the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River in Samburu National Reserve surrounded by doum palms and other beautiful indigenous trees and shrubs sits this small and exclusive camp of 12 luxury tents - all furnished in rustic African style while offering all the comforts expected of a luxury Camp (hot & cold running water, electricity and herbal products). Dining is a culinary experience with al-fresco breakfast, 3 course lunch and 4 course candle lit gourmet dinner set either under the African sky or inside the well-appointed dining area.*

Tuesday & Wednesday, 16th & 17th July, 2019

Two Full Days in Samburu National Park

After an early morning wake-up call with tea and coffee at camp you will depart on a morning Game Drive. This is the best time to see the animals as the sun rises and the animals begin to emerge!

Return to the camp and enjoy a leisurely breakfast. Rest of the morning at leisure. After Lunch at the camp depart on an afternoon Game Drive.

There will be a nature walk and a visit to a local community during your stay.

After your evening drives you will return to the camp and freshen up for dinner, you can enjoy drinks around the fire as the sun sets over the plains and simply make yourself at home.

Elephant bedroom Camp (BLD)

Thursday, 18th July, 2019

Samburu – Soysambu Conservancy (Rift Valley Lakes Region)

After breakfast at the camp, we will check out of the lodge and drive down through Nyahururu to the Great Rift Valley where we find the Lakes that we will visit during our time here. Approximate drive time; 5 hours. Arriving in time for lunch at the lodge. This area combines a mixture of National Parks and conservancy's; you will learn all about these and the history during your time here.



Buffalo grazing on the shores of Lake Elementaita; Soysambu Conservancy, Photographed by Timothy Jackson with Guy Combes in April, 2018.

After driving from Samburu and lunch at Mbweha camp on arrival, there will be time to relax and explore the immediate lodge surroundings. Mbweha is located in a forest of candelabra euphorbia that is frequented by a wide variety of birds and mammals. As the lodge is open to all wildlife movement, the staff will advise as to areas that are safe or otherwise. After gathering for tea and refreshments in the later afternoon, there will be a game viewing drive to a location in the Conservancy where sundowners will be provided and then guests will return to the lodge for dinner.

As Soysambu is in a private conservancy, there are no restrictions on doing night drives, and this will be an option after the meal. There are many nocturnal species in this area that one has a good chance of seeing. During your time here, you will also visit Lake Nakuru National Park.

Mbweha Camp (BLD) (Borders Soysambu Conservancy)
<https://www.atua-enkop.com/mbweha-camp>

***Lake Nakuru & Elementaita;** Lake Nakuru National Park is one of East Africa's famous soda lakes and it was originally the home to millions of blue-green algae, which attracted flamingoes to the lake in thousands. The sight of the pink roseate mass of the flamingoes along the lake shore is a memory currently as the Lakes chemistry is changing. You currently only see a few, you will perhaps see more on Lake Elementaita while staying at Soysambu. Lake Nakuru is also a Rhino Sanctuary with both 'Black and White Rhinos'. The park also has a small number of lions and cheetah and there is also the opportunity to hopefully get a sighting of leopard.*

***Mbweha Camp:** Tucked away in the spectacular vastness of The Great Rift Valley on a private 6400 acre Congreve Conservancy, Mbweha Camp is nestled up against the southern border of Lake Nakuru National Park with beautiful views of the Eburu and Mau Ranges. 10 cottages built of lava stone and thatched makuti roof add glamour and style to its contemporary African ambience. Every cottage is surrounded by Candelabra Euphorbia, yellow barked Acacia and other indigenous trees that provide a relaxed atmosphere as you listen to the African night sounds of a lion roar or the laughter of the hyena in the distance. Bush walks, night game drives, sundowners and bush breakfasts are many of the things you can enjoy to enhance your stay in what is truly a remarkable and authentic African setting.*

Friday & Saturday, 19th & 20th July, 2019 **Soysambu Conservancy and Rift Valley Lakes**

Your two full days here will be led by Guy and your driver/guides, where you will spend the day with morning and afternoon activities as follows, Guy will adjust this tentative schedule based on what is happening on Soysambu and make the best plans possible; **Tentative plans are as follows:**

Friday: There will be the option of a dawn viewing drive before breakfast, and after breakfast the whole group will head out to a section of the conservancy that is frequented by large numbers of wildlife. This will also be an opportunity to visit some sites where Predator conservation measures are being implemented with the "Boma Project" - See details at the end of this itinerary.

One of Kenya's leading raptor experts has a camp at Soysambu and if he is not out in the field, he will be happy to give an educational tour of his camp, where he cares for several rescued birds. There will also be an opportunity to visit a community school that is funded by the conservancy, where children are educated about wildlife and the importance of conservation.

After lunch at the lodge, guests will have some time to relax before another late afternoon viewing drive culminating in, as before, a sundowner, and then back to the lodge for dinner.

Saturday: After pre-dawn tea, guests will gather and drive to the nearby entrance of Lake Nakuru National Park in time for it to open, entering the park at optimum viewing time. A packed brunch will be brought along, and after some viewing, the group will stop for a picnic brunch al fresco. After further viewing, the group will return to the lodge in the early afternoon to relax. As before, there will be an evening viewing drive before returning to the lodge for dinner.

Mbweha Camp (BLD)

Sunday, 21st July, 2019

After breakfast this morning, we will check out and drive to the Maasai Mara Game reserve, arriving at the camp in time for lunch. We will take time to settle in after the long drive, with a relaxing lunch, then once ready we will depart for an afternoon game drive in this diverse and rich park.

Tipilikwani camp (BLD)

<https://www.atua-enkop.com/tipilikwani-mara-camp>

Maasai Mara Game Reserve: A world famous game reserve boasting an abundance of wildlife. This is the northern extension of the Serengeti. The reserve is gentle rolling grasslands teeming with a plethora of animals and bird life. Besides the big five this amazing reserve hosts a huge variety of plains game e.g., Thomson and Grant gazelles, Topi, Eland, Zebra, Waterbucks, Giraffe, Hippo and Wildebeest, Warthogs, Crocodiles, Ostrich Vultures etc and over 450 bird species with over 50 birds of prey.



This male Lion was seeking shade in the heat of the day – Photographed by Timothy Jackson April 2018

Tipilikwani Mara Camp: Overlooking the vastness of the Maasai Mara plains from the banks of River Talek is an exclusive, intimate, yet vibrant Camp of 20 luxuriously appointed riverfront tents: The camp will exude warm and rich colors of Africa. Fine food, personalized service and traditional African hospitality will complement its beautiful location.

Monday & Tuesday, 22nd & 23rd July, 2019

Two Full Days in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve

After an early morning wake-up call with tea and coffee at camp you will depart on a morning Game Drive. This is the best time to see the animals as the sun rises over the plains and the animals begin to emerge. Return to the camp and enjoy a leisurely Brunch/breakfast. You will have time to enjoy the surrounds around camp in between your drives.

Tipilikwani camp (BLD)

Optional activity: Full day Game Drive with picnic lunch to be enjoyed on the banks of the Mara River. Guy will with the guides make the decision based on what is happening in the region as to whether this is the best choice for the group or not.

Wednesday, 24th July, 2019

Mara - Nairobi

After breakfast we will say our goodbyes to the camp staff, as we head to the airstrip, say our goodbyes to our guides, and take our flight back to Nairobi. On arrival at Wilson airport, we will be collected as a group, given a small choice of where to go for lunch, where you will pay direct, and then based on time available, we will most likely go to the Beads center as we likely did not have time at the start, or similar, with options payable direct. Farewell dinner at The Carnivore Restaurant, followed by a transfer to the Airport for your onward flight home.

Cost of Adventure: US\$6,300.00 per person sharing

Single Supplement: US\$1,075.00

***With 12 people booking on this safari, the contribution of profits towards conservation results in about US\$6,500.00 donated to the Artists for Conservation Foundation. Remember it's 6 people per vehicle so if we get 18 people sign up, Artists for Conservation Foundation benefits even more – please spread the word to all your friends.**

Includes

Accommodation as stated above

All land and domestic air as stated in the itinerary (Flt: Mara – Nairobi)

Game activities during the safari portions of the trip as stated

Village visit in Samburu

*Optional village visit in the Mara will cost generally US\$30.00 per person paid direct to the village

All meals unless otherwise stated (BLD)

Water, Soft drinks and local alcoholic beverages while at safari camps **ONLY**

PLEASE NOTE: The drinks package price while at the 3 safari camps was reduced to include water and soft drinks, a sundowner drink, that can include a local beer/wine or local spirit such as a Gin 'n' Tonic, and at dinner a local beer, a glass or two of wine maximum is included. **Anyone wanting more than a drink or two will be asked to pay for extras.*

Laundry at the 3 safari camps **ONLY**

Excludes

International flights

Travel Insurance

Activities not mentioned

Items of a personal nature

Staff Gratuities

Visas for Kenya

Laundry and Drinks while in Nairobi, Premium Drinks, and Drinks beyond specification above

The Boma Project

The Boma project was started by Guy Combes, Kat Combes, and Guy's friend Jamie Kirkaldy who set up the manufacturing workshop. A boma is a traditional cattle enclosure, used for centuries by the Maasai, and consists of a circular enclosure of impenetrable thorn and scrub branches secured to the ground. The cattle are moved in at night and kept watch by a herdsman. It's a tried and tested method that has been successful for millennia, but now with modern technology and materials, we have found a way to improve on it.

The cons of a traditional boma are that they cause a scar on the landscape that can take decades to heal. The soil within the boma becomes so denuded with overuse, that it remains visible long after the pastoralists are gone. Predators also become familiarised with them being in the same place, and the risk is greater of attack.

Our solution is a mobile boma, made of several steel and mesh gates, which can be staked into the ground in any suitable location; their size can be modified to suit the size of the herd (the cattle need to be packed in tight, because if they are loose and panic, the risk of injury is greater); they can be moved to a new location before the soil is denuded AND after it has been richly fertilised with manure; predators are

less likely to familiarise themselves with the location. They are an all-round win win solution to the situation.

Each boma costs US\$2500 to produce, and our goal is to have around 40 to accommodate the roughly 5000 head of cattle on Soysambu. We have 20 so far with the funds raised from quickdraws and donations, so we are halfway to our goal. The boma project is one of many at Soysambu that urgently require funding. Profits raised from this safari will buy at least one Boma for Soysambu and other projects directed by Art for Conservation.

Contact **Timothy Jackson** for more information or for booking your place on this adventure

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"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

Mark Twain