

LAKESIDE EXPERIENCES

A WORLD OF WILDERNESS EXPERIENCES LIKE NO OTHER



LAKE ELMENTEITA SERENA
CAMP

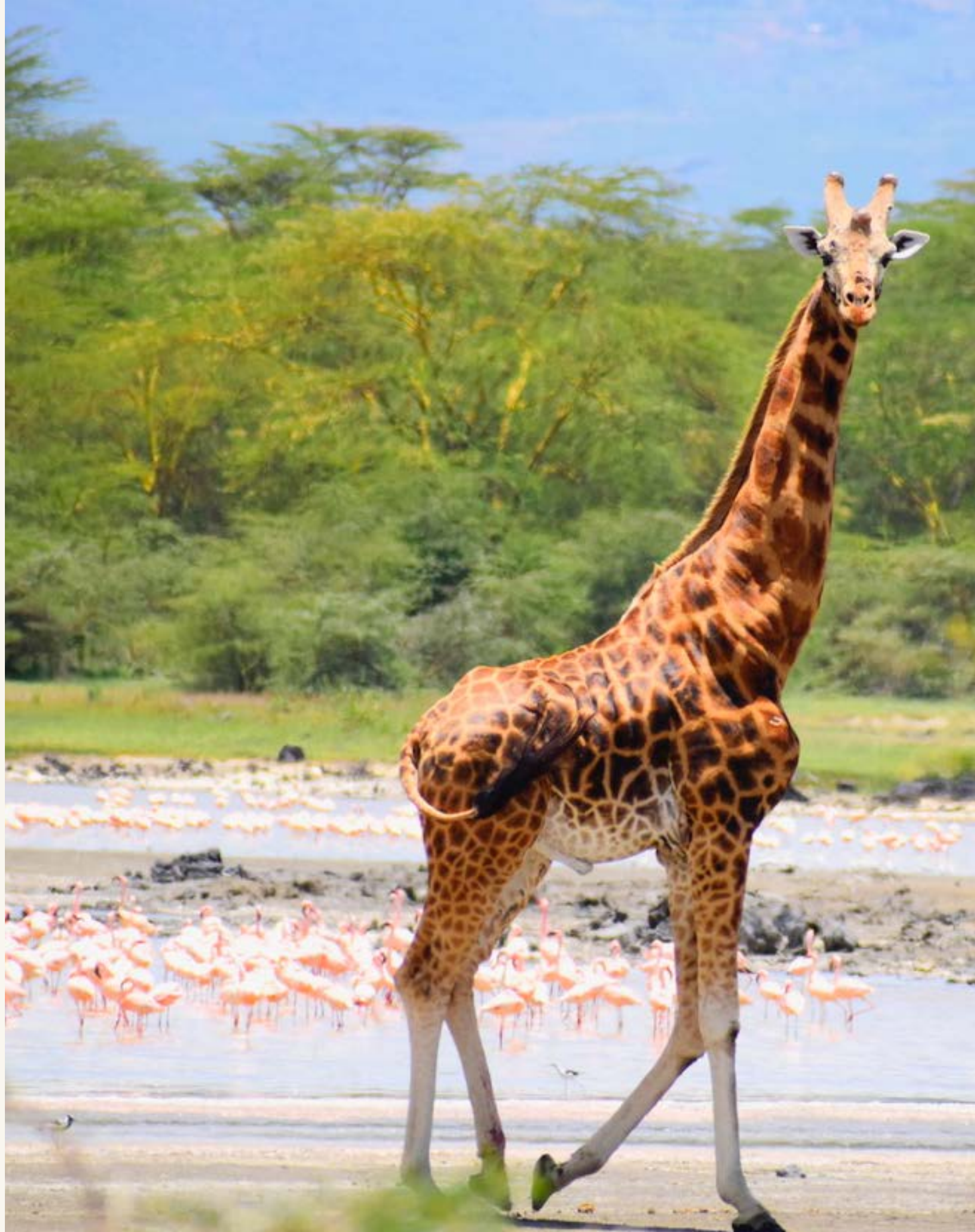




ESCAPE TO LAKE ELMENTEITA

The unique status of this private conservancy ensures that our guests many enjoy a range of iconic safari experiences not permitted in the national parks. Our portfolio includes wilderness walks, ornithological outings, *al fresco* dining, atmospheric sundowner cocktails and active diversions ranging from horse-riding to mountain-bike riding. Our safari spa also offers a carefully crafted range of treatments.

Note: included in the cost of your accommodation are the following activities: eco walk around the camp, water-colour painting by the lake, cooking lessons with our chef, badminton, eco-talk, Swahili lessons, early morning yoga on the lakeshore, jogging and badminton.





LAKESIDE ACTION

Mountain Bike Riding

Ideal for families but an engaging pursuit for all ages, our mountain bikes are available at any time (crash helmets provided). Our staff will also provide you with directions as to the various routes around the camp. We do not recommend that you go into the wilderness on your bike without an escort in the form of a safari vehicle (charged at additional cost)

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Cost per person per hour USD. 10 (within the camp)

In the wilderness with vehicle escort **Cost per person per hour USD. 45**

Horse-riding

For the ultimate blend of *'Out of Africa'* ambiance; and an unprecedented intimacy of wilderness interaction, a horse-ride is unequalled. A typical ride will take in close sightings of pelicans and flamingoes. It will also include a gentle meander through the glorious acacia woodlands. Rides can be adapted to suit the experience of the riders; and all our horses are safari-trained, docile, and well-used to inexperienced riders. Hard hats are supplied and every horse safari is led by an experienced syce/ guide. Note: if you'd like to combine a horse ride with your lakeside picnic or lakeside sundowner to let us know – this is easily arranged.

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Cost per person per hour USD. 35

The Eco Walk

The glorious diversity of the Lake Elmenteita eco-sphere means that it is best experienced on foot. Led by a professional naturalist, this gentle stroll encompasses the shore line of this utterly unrivalled Ramsar and UNESCO World Heritage Site; it also meanders deep into the golden-barked acacia woodlands. The information shared includes fascinating insights into the local flora, fauna and avifauna; the secrets of traditional medicine; local Maasai folk lore and the area’s unique colonial history. The walk also delivers a glimpse into the massive geological forces that shaped one of the greatest natural formations on earth: The Great Rift Valley.

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Duration: One hour. **Timings:** Departure from visitor desk at 10am and 4pm.

Cost per person USD. 20



The Guided Bird Walk

The guided bird walk has been designed to appeal to amateur and professional bird-watchers alike. It can also be tailored to suit the specific interest of the walkers. The conservancy is not only a World Heritage Site but also a RAMSAR site, thus it is one of Kenya’s most celebrated ornithological regions offering 450 recorded species of birds and up to 60 sightings per day. The lake is a feeding area for greater and lesser flamingoes, which rely on the blue green algae ‘*Spirulina*’ for their existence. The lake offers the only breeding islands in East Africa for the great white pelican and the pink backed pelican. Other species include: Cape teal, cormorants, spoon bills, yellow-billed stork, terns, Egyptian geese, herons, plovers, sandpapers and snipes. Hammerkops and egrets patrol the freshwater rivers, gulls wheel overhead and the acacia woodlands are alive to the calls of pigeons and doves. Raptors include vultures, eagles, kites, goshawks and sparrow hawks while sightings of secretary birds, ground hornbills and kori bustards are almost guaranteed. Other memorable sightings include those of bee-eaters, hoopoes, woodpeckers, weavers and rollers. Soysambu is also home to over 100 species of migratory birds.

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Duration: One hour. **Timings:** Walks set off from the visitor desk at 10am and 4pm. The services of a professional ornithologist, binoculars and specialist bird books will also be provided.

Note: Ornithologists may like to know that the bird walk can be tailored both in scope and duration to suit specific interests. Two- and three-day ornithological tours can also be planned in conjunction with our team.

Cost per person USD. 20

The Sleeping Warrior hike and lunch

Visitors to the camp cannot fail to notice the extinct volcano that stands behind the lake, this is sometimes known as The Sleeping Warrior and sometimes as Lord Delamere’s Nose. The myth of the Sleeping Warrior stems from Maasai tradition and suggests that this is the last resting place of the great warrior or ‘*Oloibon*’ known as Lenana who was born in 1870. During colonial times, however, this huge mountain came to be known as Lord Delamere’s nose. Firstly, because the third Baron Delamere (1870-1931), who acted as the leader of the colonial community, did have a prominent nose and, secondly because the Soysambu Estate belonged to him.

The hike up the steep cleft of The Sleeping Warrior is relatively strenuous covering an ascent of around 500 metres and the path is steep and rocky. The experience begins with a short game drive from the camp. From the foot of the volcano, the path then ascends sharply up the ‘nose’ or ‘face’ of the figure. At the top the views are splendid indeed. To the North is Lake Elmenteita, to the South are the Eburru Hills, to the East are the Gilgil Hills and to the West are the Mau Ranges. After the hike, the vehicle will drive our guests to the famous pelican breeding islands of the lake. Here, on a bay fringed by flamingoes, a hamper containing a sumptuous cold lunch will await them. A table will be set up and hot and cold drinks will be served. The photographic opportunities from this position are exceptional. Our wildlife guides will also be on hand to offer insights into the flamingoes, the pelicans and the other wildlife that abound in this part of the Conservancy. After lunch another game drive will meander through the Conservancy arriving back in the camp in the early evening.

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Included: The services of a professional guide, the provision of a safari hamper, hot and cold beverages. Set up team and waiters.

Cost per person USD. 80







SAFARIS AND GAMEDRIVES

The Day Game Drive

The uniquely private Soysambu Conservancy spans some 48,000 acres and encompasses not only the shores of the lake (and its hot springs) but also the plains that roll all the way to Lake Nakuru National Park, with which it shares a 12 km border. The exceptionally varied and utterly pristine landscape includes vast volcanic craters, acacia woodlands, lava outcrops and many miles of winding tracks upon which you are unlikely to encounter another vehicle. So sheltered from the intrusion of mankind has this conservancy been that the wildlife exists as it has always done; and unlike in any other park, can be viewed in all its primeval splendour. Add to this the fact that our professional guides know the conservancy intimately and are in radio-contact with its guardians and you can be assured that whatever is to be seen, be it lions, leopards, vast herds of buffalo or particularly special birds – your guide will find it. Sightings include those of: zebra, buffalo, Rothschild’s giraffe (the conservancy is home to some 150 Rothschild’s giraffe, 10% of the world’s remaining wild population of this endangered species), lion, leopard, hyena, jackal, bat-eared fox, warthog, colobus, vervet and syke’s monkey, waterbuck, olive baboons, Thompson’s gazelle, Grant’s gazelle, impala, eland, bush-buck, reedbuck, dik dik and duiker.

Departure: 6.30am, 10am, 4pm. **Duration:** 2 hours. **Included:** the services of a professional ornithologist, binoculars, specialist bird books, mineral water and chilled soft drinks. **Note:** If you would like to combine your game drive with a lakeside breakfast, evening sundowner, bush BBQ, hamper lunch or any of our other options, our visitor desk will create a bespoke safari entirely for you.

Cost per person USD. 45



The Night Game Drive

Traversing the moon-lit lake and exploring the acacia woodlands encircling the camp, a night game drive is the ultimate privilege, one that is not permitted in the majority of Kenya’s national parks. Our safari vehicle is equipped with a powerful spotlight operated by a skilled safari guide. Its beam captures sightings of such elusive creatures as aardvarks, spring hares, porcupines, white-tailed mongoose, bush babies, bush pigs, zorilla and honey badgers. Night hunters include lion and leopard but more likely sightings will include caracal, civet or serval cats. As for the bird life fluttering nightjars are prevalent and the occasional owl may be seen hunting for prey

Departure: 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm, Alternative time 8.00 pm -10.00 pm
Vehicle: Open-sided safari vehicle equipped with powerful spotlight.
Included: Warm blankets and hot drinks. **Note:** The night game drive can incorporate an early evening sundowner by the lake at an additional cost of USD. 35 per person.

Cost per person USD. 60



The Half-day trip to Lake Nakuru National Park

Entitled ‘the greatest bird spectacle on earth’ thanks to the millions of fuchsia-pink flamingo that flock to feed on the teeming algae of its alkaline waters, the pink-frosted shores and sky-mirrored waters of Lake Nakuru yield some of the most evocatively beautiful photo-images in Africa. Kenya’s first and largest rhino sanctuary, the park almost guarantees sightings of both black and white rhino. A prime lion haunt, it is similarly famed for its leopard sightings. In the lake hippos abound, around it graze plentiful waterbuck, warthog, zebra, gazelle and buffalo. **Wildlife highlights:** Lion, black and white rhino, waterbuck, hippo, leopard, impala, gazelle, hyena, wild cat, golden cat, hyrax, colobus monkey, and Rothschild’s giraffe. **Birds:** 1.5 million flamingos and 450 other recorded species.

Need to know: The park lies a 30-minute drive by road from the camp. It is also accessible through the Soysambu Conservancy (45 minutes). **Vehicle:** Open sided safari vehicle with a professional guide. Provided: binoculars, safari literature and soft drinks. **Departure:** 8am. **Duration:** 5 hours. Arrive back in camp in time for lunch, alternatively a picnic hamper can be provided.

Cost per person USD. 80



SPA AND WELLNESS

We offer a wide range of spa treatments to include a portfolio of massage options and wellness treatments ranging from facials to manicures. Enjoy the treatments in our dedicated spa tent or, if you prefer, in your room or on your terrace. A menu of spa options is provided in your tent.





WILDERNESS DINNING

The Lakeside Breakfast

Early morning by the lake is special indeed. This is the time when many thousands of flamingoes and pelicans mass on the shores of this World Heritage Site, some arriving back from Lake Nakuru, others leaving to feed there. It's also the time when the vast outline of the extinct volcano known as The Sleeping Warrior is at its most magnificent. Photographically superb, this experience also includes a guided eco walk from your tent to the shores of the lake. Here our safari team will set up an impromptu kitchen, a table and a breakfast buffet. Your bespoke cooked breakfast will then be served. When you have seen your fill of all that this uniquely atmospheric spot has to offer, you can either walk back to the camp with your professional guide, or travel by vehicle.

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Timing: At any time to suit you. **Vehicle:** Open-sided safari vehicle with window-seating for 6. **Safari team:** Professional guide, waiters and chef. **Included:** Soft drinks, locally produced alcoholic drinks (wine and beer). Snacks to include hot and cold savouries.

Cost per person USD. 30



The Wilderness Breakfast

The wilderness breakfast combines a game drive and the chance of dining in the wild. Travelling in our open-sided land cruiser, you are invited to enjoy a one-hour game drive through this unique conservancy. You will then arrive at one of our dedicated sites to find that our team has set up a table and chairs and laid out the contents of our chef's breakfast hamper which typically contains fruit, cereals, yoghurt followed by bacon, eggs, sausages, toast and marmalade. Tea, coffee and fruit juice will be served.

Note: Should you book the wilderness breakfast our chef will consult with you as to what you would like your hamper to contain. We have a number of enchanting sites to include: lakeside sites with views of the flamingoes and the nesting sites of the pelicans and wilderness sites on the plains or in the acacia woodlands.

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Departure: 7.30am. **Duration:** 1 hour. **Included:** soft drinks, locally produced alcoholic drinks (wine and beer). Snacks to include hot and cold savouries. **Note:** the lakeside breakfast can incorporate an hour's horse riding along the shore line to arrive at the picnic site at an additional cost of USD. 35 per person

Cost per person USD. 90



Cliff top Sundowners

An integral part of East Africa's safari tradition is the 'sundowner' which as the name suggests involves watching the spectacular descent of the sun (at around 6pm all year round) from a panoramic vantage point out in the bush. Typically the experience features the provision of traditional safari chairs, warm wraps and a waiter-service. A safari-bar is set up and the chef's hand-crafted savouries served. Departing in time to arrive at the destination 20 minutes before the sun sets, the experience features a short evening game drive to and from the destination; it also ensures that our guests arrive back in camp in time for dinner. A uniquely memorable and exceptionally photogenic experience, the cliff-top sundowners is staged atop the towering volcanic cliffs that rise above this ancient alkaline lake. It promises unique aerial views of the shifting mosaic of the flamingoes; and a dramatic backdrop in the shape of the extinct volcano known as The Sleeping Warrior.

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Timing: At 5.30 to 6.30. **Vehicle:** Open-sided safari vehicle with window-seating for 6. **Safari team:** Professional guide, waiters and chef. **Included:** Soft drinks, locally produced alcoholic drinks (wine and beer). Snacks to include hot and cold savouries.

Cost per person USD. 35



Lakeside Sundowners

An integral part of East Africa's safari tradition is the 'sundowner' which as the name suggests involves watching the spectacular descent of the sun (at 6pm virtually all year round) from a panoramic vantage point on the shores of atmospheric Lake Elmenteita. Typically, the experience features the provision of traditional safari chairs, warm wraps and a waiter-service. A safari-bar is set up on the lakeshore and hand-crafted savouries served against the dramatic backdrop of the immense extinct volcano known as The Sleeping Warrior. Departing in time to arrive at the destination 20 minutes before the sun sets, the experience features an evening game drive to and from the lake's sandy shoreline. A uniquely memorable and photographic experience, the lakeside sundowners is staged at a scenic point on the lakeshore and promises uniquely intimate viewing of both the flamingos and the islands upon which the pelicans breed (the only place in East Africa in which they do so). The experience also features atmospheric evening game-drives through dense acacia forests where sightings of the night's hunting cats, and such rarities as armadillos, bat-eared foxes and porcupines add to the privilege of the experience. Also included are the services of our skilled naturalist who will be delighted to provide information on the wildlife, birds and landscape.

Timing: 5.30 to 6.30. **Vehicle:** Open-sided safari vehicle with window-seating for 6. **Safari team:** Professional guide, waiters and chef. **Included:** Soft drinks, locally produced alcoholic drinks (wine and beer). Snacks to include hot and cold savouries. **Note:** The lakeside breakfast can incorporate an hour's horse riding along the shore line to arrive at the picnic site at an additional cost.

Cost per person USD. 35

Wilderness Sundowners

One of the few remaining private conservancies in Kenya, the Soysambu Conservancy, home to Lord Hugh Cholmondeley, the Fifth Baron Delamere, and his wife Lady Ann, promises a safari experience that is rarely replicated. Here, amid wildlife-studded planes you are unlikely to see another vehicle: the landscape is essentially your own. Your ‘camp’ can pitched beneath a spreading fig tree, atop a volcanic ridge, or on the planes where impala, zebra, giraffe and gazelles roam. In time-honoured safari tradition, lamps will be lit and a bushfire will blaze. Savoury ‘bitings’ will be cooked by your safari team, who will also set up an impromptu safari bar. Preceded by a period of ‘golden light’ ideal for photography, the sun will set in glory over this uniquely primeval landscape. As dusk gathers, your drive may deliver sightings of leopard, spring hares, civet, serval or genet cats; mongoose, porcupines, nocturnal aardvark, roosting raptors or lake-silhouetted flamingoes. You will arrive back in camp in plenty of time for dinner.

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Timing: 5.30 to 6.30. **Vehicle:** Open-sided safari vehicle with window-seating for 6. **Safari team:** professional guide, waiters and chef. **Included:** Soft drinks, locally produced alcoholic drinks (wine and beer). Snacks to include hot and cold savouries. **Options:** The wilderness sundowners can incorporate an hour’s horse riding along the shore line to arrive at the sundowner site as the sun descends (at an additional cost). Alternatively, it can be incorporated into an afternoon game drive or a night game drive experience.

Cost per person USD. 40



The Wilderness Dinner

The wilderness dinner delivers the ultimate ‘*Out of Africa*’ ambiance. It also allows you to experience a late afternoon game drive in our open-sided land-cruiser and a night game drive. This will deliver unforgettable sightings of the rare Rothschild’s giraffe, zebra, eland, water buck, antelope, warthogs and buffalo. Later, traversing the moon-lit lake and exploring the acacia woodlands encircling the camp, a night game drive is the ultimate privilege. It is also one that is not permitted in the majority of Kenya’s national parks. Our safari vehicle is equipped with a powerful spotlight operated by a skilled safari guide. Its beam captures sighting of such elusive creatures as aardvarks, spring hares, porcupines, white-tailed mongoose, bush babies, bush pigs, zorilla and honey badgers. Night hunters include lion and leopard but more likely sightings will include caracal, civet or serval cats. As for the bird life fluttering nightjars are prevalent and the occasional owl may be seen hunting for prey. Both drives are led by our professional wildlife guide.

As evening draws in, the vehicle will draw up in a particularly beautiful spot in the wilderness, or by the lake, where a surprise encampment will have been set up. The lanterns will have been lit, and the fire. On hand will be a chef and his team of waiters. There will also be an impromptu bar. The five-course dinner will comprise a selection of starters and soups followed by a BBQ buffet of meat, chicken, fish and grilled vegetables. The buffet will also feature a selection of salads and hot vegetables. Afterwards we invite you to enjoy our selection of desserts, fruit and ice cream followed by coffee. This is a supremely atmospheric experience that grows more enchanting as evening turns to night and the stars are revealed. Because this is an area of ‘dark sky’ with little ambient light, the night sky is particularly beautiful here with Saturn, Venus, Jupiter and the constellation of the Pleiades clearly visible.

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Departure: 4pm onwards. **Included:** The services of a professional guide, the provision of a five-course BBQ dinner cooked on site by our team of chefs. The provision of a safari bar and all wines, beers and local spirits.

Cost per person USD. 90



The Cultural Dinner

Set in the woodlands to the rear of the camp is a clearing in which we stage our cultural dinner. The path to the clearing is lit by lanterns and, on arrival, you will find a campfire, an al fresco safari bar and a number of lantern-lit dining tables. The five-course dinner will comprise a selection of starters and soups followed by a BBQ buffet of meat, chicken, fish and grilled vegetables. The buffet will also feature a selection of salads and hot vegetables. Afterwards we invite you to enjoy our selection of desserts, fruit and ice cream followed by coffee.

Whilst you are dining, live music will be provided. There will also be a display of cultural dance. This is a supremely atmospheric experience that grows more enchanting as evening turns to night and the stars are revealed. Because this is an area of ‘dark sky’ with little ambient light, the night sky is particularly beautiful here with Saturn, Venus, Jupiter and the constellation of the Pleiades clearly visible.

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Timing: Any time to suite you from 6pm onwards. **Included:** Provision of a five-course BBQ dinner cooked on site by our team of chefs. The provision of a safari bar and all wines, beers and local spirits.

Cost per person USD. 40





BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

Ornithological Safaris

The conservancy is not only a World Heritage Site but also a RAMSAR site, thus it is one of Kenya's most celebrated ornithological regions offering 450 recorded species of birds and up to 60 sightings per day. The lake is a feeding area for greater and lesser flamingoes, which rely on the blue green algae '*Spirulina*' for their existence. The lake offers the only breeding islands in East Africa for the the great white pelican and the pink backed pelican. Other species include: Cape teal, cormorants, spoon bills, yellow-billed stork, terns, Egyptian geese, herons, plovers, sandpapers and snipes. Hammerkops and egrets patrol the freshwater rivers, gulls wheel overhead and the acacia woodlands are alive to the calls of pigeons and doves. Raptors include vultures, eagles, kites, goshawks and sparrow hawks while sightings of secretary birds, ground hornbills and kori bustards are almost guaranteed. Other memorable sightings include those of bee-eaters, hoopoes, woodpeckers, weavers and rollers. Soysambu is also home to over 100 species of migratory birds.

Ornithological safaris can be organized as follows:

- Half or full-day birding drives to take in the shore line, pelican nesting islands, hot springs, bird hides, plains and acacia woodlands.
- Half or full-day birding walks
- 2-3 day bespoke birding tours to include Lake Nakuru National Park.



Weddings, proposal weekends and honeymoons

If you are looking for a wedding venue that delivers a panoramic backdrop like no other, an unrivalled romantic ambience, the ultimate honeymoon experience, and a range of wildlife, birdlife and unusual activities that are guaranteed to delight your guests, then Lake Elmenteita is for you. We pride ourselves on the excellence of our catering, our team will also be delighted to work with you on a bespoke menu.



Will you marry me? Weekends

For those thinking of asking the all-important question, we offer a range of bespoke weekends complete with romantic dinners for two in the wilderness, cocktails by the lake, and indulge-yourself spa treatments.

Lakeside corporate

For those who would like to conduct their corporate business in a tranquil setting yet within easy reach of both Nairobi and Nakuru, we have the service for you. Our dedicated meetings tent has been constructed in classic safari style and stands immediately adjacent to reception. Depending on layout, it can accommodate up to 35 guests. Services include: audio visual equipment, pads, pens, water; white boards and flip charts.







For further information please contact:

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