



# LAKE ELMENTEITA SERENA SAFARI CAMP NEWS

EDITION 1 - DECEMBER 2022

Welcome to the first of our new-look newsletters, which have been designed to showcase the very best of the wilderness events, new experiences and innovative products coming on line in our hotels, camps and resorts. We hope you find something in Edition One to make a visit to Lake Elmenteita an absolute priority. Meanwhile, if you'd like to know more about any of the stories we've shared, just let us know...

A full-page photograph of a giraffe, Moses, standing in a savanna landscape. The giraffe is facing right, with its long neck extended. Its coat is a mix of brown and white patches, characteristic of vitiligo. The background shows a vast, open landscape with green and brown vegetation under a clear sky.

# MOSES IS TURNING WHITE

Soysambu Conservancy, home to Lake Elmenteita Serena Safari Camp, is home to a very rare giraffe. Moses is one of the few giraffes in the world to have developed a skin condition called vitiligo, which basically means that basically Moses is slowly turning white. And in this he is unique because he is the first wild giraffe ever to be diagnosed with this condition. Nor is Moses to be confused with the very few other white giraffes that exist in the world because they are technically either albino or leucistic, which means that they were born white.

A well-known figure on the landscape, Moses is easily spotted on a game drive.





# WHITE WEDDINGS ON THE LAKE SHORE

One of the last great private estates in Kenya, Soysambu offers a glorious choice of backdrops for a wedding. The camp also lends itself to the staging of a number of wedding styles. There's the 'Out of Africa' in the lounge with its chandeliers, antiques, grand piano and ambience of times past. There's the lakeside wedding with a backdrop of thousands of flamingoes, there's also the wilderness wedding staged in an enchanting acacia grove close to the camp. As for the rest of the wedding portfolio our team is proficient in everything from the provision of cakes to champagne, cocktails to flowers.



## A SANCTUARY FOR WHITE PELICANS.

Lake Elmenteita has a series of rocky islands which provide the ideal breeding ground for the the great white pelican and the pink backed pelican. So unique are the islands that this is the only breeding ground in East Africa for the great white pelican. In the season, the small islands are packed so tight with nesting birds and dark fledglings that new comers have to queue for space. There's only one problem – the lake does not have enough food to feed all these large birds so they have to fly ten miles to Lake Nakuru to fish. They then store the catch in their large pouches and bring them back for their young. An ideal time to spot the pelicans is while having a lakeside breakfast, or even a lakeside sundowner.





# A NEW TAKE ON A HORSE RIDE

For the ultimate blend of 'Out of Africa' ambiance and intimacy of wilderness interaction, a horse-ride is hard to beat. Rides at our camp also deliver close sightings of pelicans and flamingoes. 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. What's more we can also combine a horse-ride with a lakeside picnic or a wilderness breakfast.



# DINING WITH THE STARS

There's a revolutionary new experience at Lake Elmenteita Serena Camp; and it's shortly to be on offer in all Serena's properties. The Star Dinner combines a bush dinner with the chance to view the stars through the largest telescope in Kenya. The telescope, a 12-inch computerized reflecting telescope belongs to the Travelling Telescope Company who also run Kenya's only planetarium. Lake Elmenteita is ideal for star-gazing due to its lack of ambient light and promises stunning views of Saturn, Jupiter, Mercury and the Pleiades. The night game drive back to the camp might also deliver sightings of leopards, aardvarks and spring hares.











# SOYSAMBU IS HOME TO 10% OF THE WORLD'S ROTHSCILD'S GIRAFFE

The Rothschild's giraffe is a precious creature. Classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as endangered, it could soon become extinct in the wild. Right now, it is estimated that there are only 650 such giraffes in the wild.

The good news is that ten per cent of them live on the Soysambu Conservancy. They're also very easy to see. Just take a game drive from Lake Elmenteita Serena Camp and multiple sightings are guaranteed.



## SPARKLING NEW EXPERIENCES

We've come up with a whole new range of experiences to captivate our guests. Top of the list is the Sleeping Warrior Hike. Dominating the landscape, the Sleeping Warrior is an extinct volcano which can be easily climbed and offers stunning views from its summit. And to enhance the experience we've combined it with a picnic hamper lunch by the Great White Pelican nesting sites on the lake. We've also come up with an exceptionally atmospheric wilderness dinner, which is staged in a glade of acacia trees (and incorporates a night game drive), a half day game drive around the conservancy that ends with sundowners by the lake (or a picnic lunch on safari) and a wilderness sundowner combined with a night game drive. There is also bike riding –around the camp or out in the wilderness, yoga by the lake as the sun rises, and water-colour painting.





## FOLLOW THE STAR

This year's corporate concept for Christmas is Follow the Star. Which means that guests at the camp can expect the arrival of their very own wise men on camels, a nativity scene staged by our local school and a whole range of eco-friendly Christmas diversions. The Follow the Star theme, which echoes the biblical story of the star that rose over Bethlehem and guided the wise man to the nativity, also draws attention to the fact that we must all nurture the star we live on, especially in this time of global warming.





## LAKE NAKURU OVER LAND

Thanks to the opening of a new gate between Soysambu Conservancy and Lake Nakuru National Park, our guests can, for the first time, enjoy a fabulous 45-minute game drive across the Conservancy to arrive directly at the gates of one of Kenya's most famous parks. This has added an entire new dimension to our wilderness and ornithological options.



# THE ULTIMATE PRIVILEGE – A NIGHT GAME DRIVE

Soysambu is one of the few wilderness areas where guests can enjoy a night game drive, the ultimate privilege. 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



# SOAP FOR HOPE

We're working with our local school, Kiboko Primary School to recycle all the bars of soap that get left behind in our hotels and resorts across Kenya. The soap is cleaned and pressed into new bars by the children who then take them home for use in the community. This initiative has not only taught the children all about innovation and recycling, but it has also made the local community a whole lot healthier thanks to raised levels of hygiene.







## WILL YOU MARRY ME?

There's a whole new fashion in proposals. Gentlemen intent on popping the question prefer to do it on a weekend away. They also like that weekend to be planned for them and to include optimum romance. Which is something we do exceptionally well at Lake Elmenteita. Options include getting down on one knee by the lake, in an acacia glade, or on the cliff tops. Add-ons include surprise champagne cocktails or dinners for two in the wilderness. Nobody does it better...





## ORNITHOLOGY TAKES OFF

The camp is proving a draw for ornithologists from all over the world. So much so that we've had to come up with a portfolio of birding options ranging from a simple bird walk to a three-day ornithological tours. The conservancy (a Ramsar site and UNESCO World Heritage Site) is one of Kenya's prime 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 also offers the only breeding islands in East Africa for the great white pelican and the pink backed pelican.





# TAKING IT OUT OF THE BOARDROOM AND INTO THE BUSH

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, constructed in classic safari style, can accommodate up to 35 guests. We also have all the business support our corporate clients expect and an innovative portfolio of after-event cocktails, team-building events and gala suppers.





# LAKE ELMENTEITA SERENA SAFARI CAMP

For further information on all that  
Lake Elmenteita Serena Safari Camp has to offer:  
[www.serenahotels.com](http://www.serenahotels.com)