

Black Rhino Tracking in the Samburu



2015 saw the return of the endangered black rhino to the lands of the Samburu, in northern Kenya, after an absence of 25 years – an historic achievement for conservation and tourism in Kenya. This unique safari itinerary is intended to allow you to get as close as possible to these majestic creatures. Staying at Saruni Rhino Camp, you'll explore Samburland on foot and by 4x4 in the company of experienced rangers, and in doing so gain a deeper understanding of the rhino than can be had from a traditional driven safari.

Day 1: Arrive Nairobi (Eka Hotel)

You will be met on arrival into Nairobi and transferred to the Eka Hotel, situated within easy reach of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, for one night on B&B basis.

Days 2-5: Transfer to Samburu National Reserve (Saruni Samburu Lodge)

You will be collected from Eka Hotel after breakfast and transferred to Wilson Airport to catch the early flight to Kalama Airstrip, in the Samburu National Reserve. On arrival, meet with your driver and transfer to the fabulous Saruni Samburu Lodge, where you stay 4 nights (fully-inclusive basis with activities).



This upmarket safari lodge is situated in the private Kalama Conservancy, on the remote outskirts of the Samburu National Reserve. From its isolated perch in the Kalama Hills, Saruni Samburu enjoys spectacular views of the Samburu grasslands below, as they extend from the foothills of the Kalamas into the distant horizon, with views that extend as far as Mt Kenya on a clear day.

Saruni Samburu offers just six guest cottages. Scattered along the granite hilltop, the cottages have been carved out of natural stone and rock. They are entirely open at the front, with only gauze curtains separating them from the elements (these open during the day to allow for a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape). The spacious interiors are beautifully-furnished with Samburu rugs, lanterns, and hardwood furnishings.

Guest facilities at Saruni Samburu include a spa, small game-viewing hide, open-air dining area (situated at the peak of the hill so as to make the most of the views), and an infinity swimming pool, positioned just below the rooms on the upper slopes of the hill.



The next three days are free for you to explore Samburuland – both the national reserve and the private Kalama Conservancy. Saruni Samburu offers a mix of activities, including guided day and night game drives, and guided bush walks.



Days 6-8: Transfer to Sera Conservancy (Saruni Rhino Camp)

After breakfast at Saruni Samburu, depart the Kalama Conservancy with your driver and journey two hours north into the neighbouring Sera Conservancy, where you check-in at Saruni Rhino Lodge for three nights (fully inclusive basis with activities).

Comprised of two elegant 'bandas' (open stone cottages), sleeping 4-6 guests each, and a main 'mess' cottage for dining and relaxing, Saruni Rhino is situated in the heart of the Sera Conservancy, amidst swaying doum palms and on the dry bed of the Kauro River, from where it overlooks a nearby waterhole. The waterhole is a popular drinking spot for a diversity of wildlife – elephant, hyena, impala, oryx, and Grevy's zebra are among the regular visitors – making for great 'bush TV' from the comfort of your cottage's sandy verandah! – while the dry river bed provides a quintessential torch-lit bush dinner location under the vast African skies.



Saruni Rhino's main draw, however, is its namesake – the rhino. The lodge offers a rare opportunity to track these fabulous creatures in their natural environment. Accompanied



by an expert guide and ranger, guests at Saruni have the opportunity to track black rhino on foot through the wild bush of the Sera Conservancy – a unique and thrilling walking safari.

There are currently 21 rhinos within the conservancy – a vast wilderness almost 350,000 hectares in size – re-homed from elsewhere in Kenya for their protection. Through your safari, you'll have the opportunity to learn more about the work involved in the protection of this severely endangered species.

During your stay at Saruni Rhino, you will also have the opportunity to visit the recently-opened Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, in the nearby Namunyak Wildlife Conservancy, part of the remote Mathews Range. This sanctuary

provides protection for orphaned and abandoned elephant calves with the aim of releasing them back into the wild.

Day 9: International departure

Depart Saruni Rhino this morning, enjoying a game drive en-route to the airstrip to catch the morning flight to Wilson Airport, Nairobi, and onward transfer to the international airport.

Booking information and costs:

From **£3,870 per person sharing**, to include all accommodations and board as specified, fully inclusive at Saruni Samburu and Saruni Rhino, park and concession fees, internal flights, and transfers.

Start from price based on travel in low season (Mar-May; Nov). For travel in shoulder season (Jan-Feb; Jun), costs start from £4,260 per person sharing; travel in high season (Jul-Oct; 20 Dec - 2 Jan), from £4,580 per person sharing.

Price excludes: international flights, visas, insurance, tips

This safari can be extended with a few days in the Masai Mara National Reserve. Alternatively, for rest and relaxation we can add time on the Kenyan Coast or Zanzibar – please ask for details.