Fact Sheet

ELSA'S KOPJE
MERU

KENYA



elewana
COLLECTION



MERU NATIONAL PARK

Unashamedly romantic & utterly stylish

Elsa's Kopje is sculpted into Mughwango Hill, above the site of George Adamson's original camp where he raised and released orphan lions, long before conservation became fashionable. This is Born Free country.









Elsa's Kopje is an environmental award-winning, boutique lodge that rescued the rugged and remote Meru National Park from oblivion. Winner of the Good Safari Guide's '*Best Safari Property in Africa*' award, Elsa's Kopje is widely renowned as one of the most elegant lodges in Africa.

Fast Facts

Location	• Mughwango Hill, Meru National Park, Kenya
Global Coordinates	• 0°08'00.2"N 38°08'14.3"E
Access	• Mughwango Airstrip (private airstrip) is a 5 min drive from the lodge; Kinna Airstrip is a 45 min drive from the lodge. Both are a 1hr flight from Wilson Airport. • Once daily scheduled Air Kenya flight departing Nairobi Wilson to Kinna airstrip
Check-in	• From 14:00 to 18:00
Check-out	• 10:00
Lodge Facilities	• 24 hr power • Baby Sitting • Bar • Bush Spa • Child Friendly • Children's menu • Complimentary Wi-Fi • Credit Cards Accepted • In-room Charging Facilities • Laundry Service • Restaurant • Room Service • Secure Parking • Shop • Swimming Pool


N
W
E
S
7
FAMILY SUITE
8
6
RECEPTION
5
GIFT SHOP
4
PRIVATE HOUSE
9
MANAGEMENT
10
GUIDE COTTAGE
3
DINING & BAR LOUNGE
KITCHEN
SWIMMING POOL
PARKING
BUSH SPA
BRIDGE
2
STAFF CAMP
1



Key Highlights

Rhino Sanctuary

Meru National Park covers an expansive 870 km² of pristine wilderness, anchored by a highly successful 10,000-acre dedicated rhino sanctuary. Home to over 70 white and 30 black rhinos, this protected zone makes the park one of East Africa's premier destinations for exceptional rhino sightings.

Historic Adamson Legacy

Built directly at the foot of Mughwango Hill, the lodge overlooks the original campsite of George and Joy Adamson where Elsa the lioness of *Born Free* fame was raised. The property is richly curated with authentic memorabilia and historical photographs celebrating this iconic conservation legacy.

Exclusive Wilderness Access

As the premier luxury lodge situated within the park boundaries, Elsa's Kopje offers guests the rare privilege of exploring the wilderness almost entirely to themselves. The property holds special permits to host guided walking safaris, river fishing, and evening night game drives.

Boutique Kopje Architecture

Sculpted into the rocky slope of Mughwango Hill, the award-winning lodge is seamlessly integrated with the natural stone architecture of the kopje. Open-fronted cottages featuring fine antiques look out over an iconic infinity pool with sweeping views across the Meru plains.

Abundant Local Birdlife

Meru National Park is a paradise for birdwatchers, boasting over 450 recorded avian species across its diverse ecosystems. The park's thriving riverine forests and open grasslands offer year-round sightings of rare endemics, vibrant raptors, and riverine species.











Sculpted by Nature

Each cottage at Elsa's Kopje is uniquely crafted around the natural contours of giant volcanic boulders, featuring open-fronted designs that invite sweeping views of the Meru plains directly into your living space. With elegant stone interiors and thatched roofs, the lodge remains an organic yet sophisticated retreat in one of Kenya's most storied wildernesses.

- **5 En-suite Cottages (70.0m²):** Double cottages, each featuring a main bedroom, en-suite bathroom, and a private deck or verandah.
- **3 Safari Suites (90.0 m²):** 2 romantic suites featuring outdoor baths and private decks, alongside 1 triple-level suite with a private lounge, en-suite double bedroom, and private deck
- **1 Family Suite (170.0m²):** A spacious two-bedroom suite (1 double, 1 twin), two en-suite bathrooms, an outdoor bath, a private living room, and an expansive verandah.
- **1 Private House (228.0m²):** An exclusive two-bedroom villa (1 double, 1 twin, both en-suite) featuring a shared sitting room, dining area, private garden, and exclusive-use infinity pool.

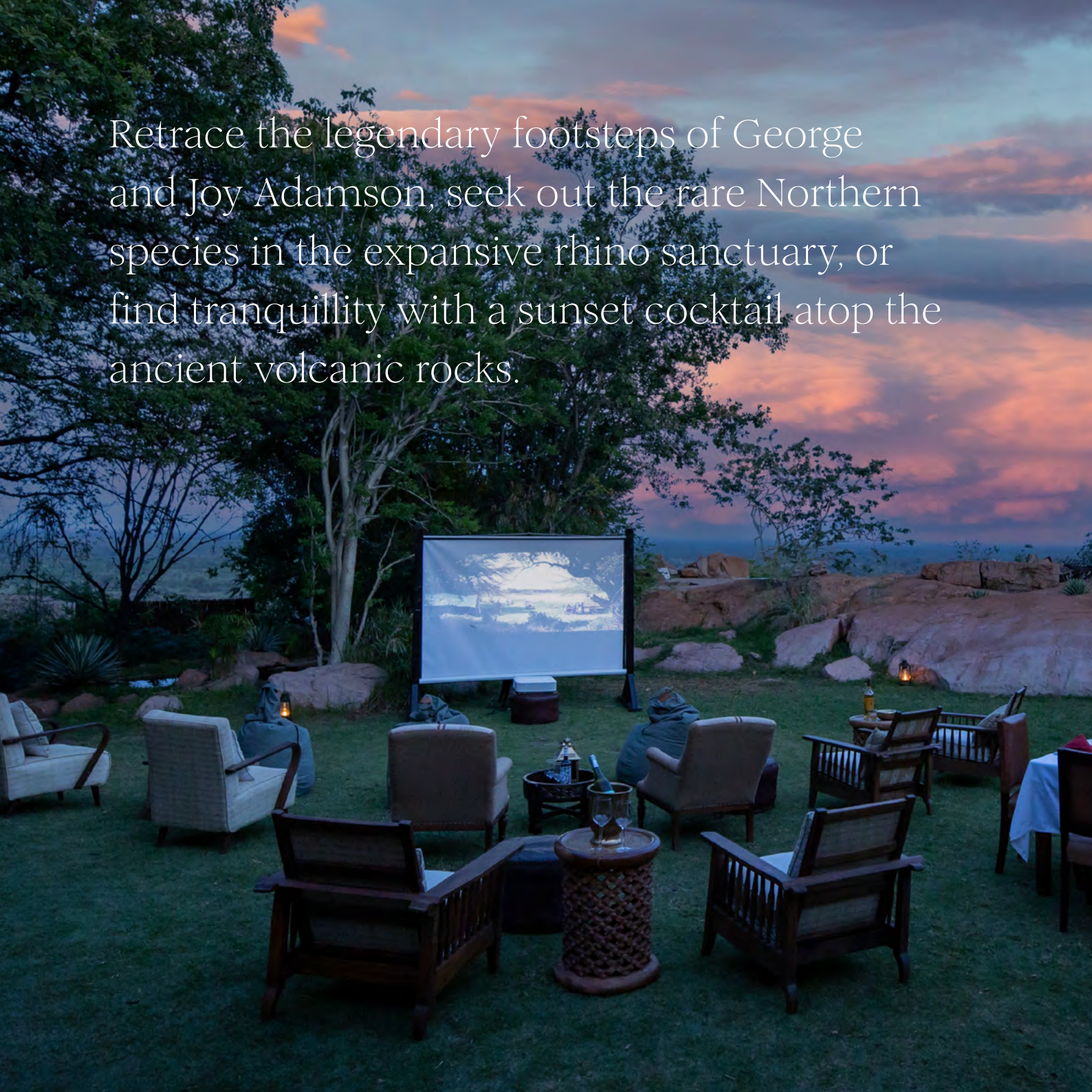
The Family Cottage and Private House are nestled on the higher reaches of Mughwango Hill, offering elevated panoramas and secluded luxury for guests seeking complete privacy.

Elsa's Kopje is an icon of invisible luxury, sculpted into the very heart of the ancient rock. It is a place where the storied legacy of George and Joy Adamson breathes through the landscape, offering an elevated perspective over the untamed Meru wilderness.









Retrace the legendary footsteps of George and Joy Adamson, seek out the rare Northern species in the expansive rhino sanctuary, or find tranquillity with a sunset cocktail atop the ancient volcanic rocks.

Activities

Select activities and excursions require advance booking and may carry additional charges. Should you have any questions or require further information, our team is available to assist.

Game Drives
Explore untamed landscapes on guided morning and afternoon game drives. Expert guides track lions, leopards, reticulated giraffes, and Grevy's zebras across uncrowded plains.

Night Game Drives
Experience the wilderness after dark on an evening park safari. Guided alongside KWS rangers, guests seek out elusive predators under starlit skies.

Mughwango Plains Nature Walk
Discover the bush on foot during a guided walking safari below camp. Escorted by rangers, guests track wildlife and identify indigenous flora up close.
(Minimum age 16 years).

Mughwango Hill Hike
Ascend the granite slopes of Mughwango Hill directly behind the lodge. Available morning or afternoon, this trek offers bird's-eye views across the Meru landscape toward Mount Kenya.

River Fishing
Relax along palm-fringed riverbanks for an afternoon of line fishing. Cast for catfish or tilapia while enjoying a setting shared with hippos and kingfishers.

Born Free Heritage & Elsa's Grave
Journey to a remote corner of the park to visit Elsa the Lioness's final resting place. This historic site offers a poignant connection to George and Joy Adamson's conservation legacy.

Tana River Excursions
Embark on a full-day safari excursion to the banks of Kenya's longest river. Guests enjoy a scenic picnic lunch while observing hippos and crocodiles along the riverbank.

Rhino Sanctuary Visits
Explore Meru's 10,000-acre Rhino Sanctuary to witness landmark conservation efforts firsthand. The protected habitat allows for exceptional encounters with black and white rhinos.

Wellness & Relaxation
Unwind with a soothing professional massage in our dedicated wellness room. Alternatively, cool off with a dip in the infinity pool carved directly into the rock face.

Sundowners
Toast the day's end with chilled cocktails at a scenic vantage point. Watch the sun dip below the horizon as the wilderness transitions into dusk.









Children's Activities

- **Warrior & Bush Training**
  Learn essential survival skills and natural bush navigation alongside local guides.
- **Animal Track Moulding**
  Search for fresh wildlife prints around camp and pour plaster casts to create a keepsake.
- **Mini Twitcher Bird Walk**
  Spot, track, and identify colourful local bird species on guided nature walks.
- **Stargazing & African Folklore**
  Discover southern constellations while listening to captivating traditional night-sky legends around the campfire.
- **Scorpion & Bug Search**
  Explore the nocturnal world using UV lights to safely spot night-time insects.
- **Indigenous Tree Planting**
  Plant native seed balls around the lodge grounds to contribute directly to local conservation.
- **The Story of Elsa the Lioness**
  Discover Elsa's historic legacy followed by a special screening of the classic *Born Free* film.
- **S'mores & Bush Tales**
  Roast marshmallows over an open campfire while enjoying engaging African folklore.
- **Movie Night**
  Unwind with relaxed movie screenings in the lounge while parents savour a peaceful dinner.
- **Giant Lawn Jenga**
  Test balance with an oversized outdoor game where each block reveals a fun wildlife fact.
- **Homemade Playdough**
  Mix, mould, and sculpt colourful creations during hands-on crafting sessions.

















The Culinary Experience

Dining at Elsa's Kopje is refined yet rustic, beginning with fresh, locally sourced ingredients and a respect for tradition before introducing creativity through thoughtful detail and presentation.

Lunch opens with tapas-style sharing plates before an à la carte main course and dessert, creating a relaxed and sociable afternoon experience. As the day cools, guests gather for bitings at the sunset point high on the kopje before dinner is served beneath the stars.

Whether enjoying a bush breakfast in the Meru wilderness or an intimate evening overlooking the plains, each meal connects guests to the extraordinary landscape while retaining the understated refinement that defines life at Elsa's Kopje.

Sustainability & Conservation

Elsa's Kopje combines renewable energy and circular waste management with deep community partnerships across the Meru wilderness.

Environmental Stewardship

- **Accreditations & Emissions:** Gold Eco-Rated by Ecotourism Kenya and Glasgow Declaration signatory, powered by solar energy and net-zero cooling solutions.
- **Waste & Single-Use Plastic Reduction:** Strict zero-tolerance single-use plastic policy paired with complete source waste separation and off-site recycling via TakaTaka Solutions.
- **Wilderness Protection:** Partnering with KWS to protect Meru National Park's ecosystem, preserving the natural habitat and historic legacy of Joy and George Adamson.

Community & Local Legacy

- **Education & Infrastructure:** Decade-long partnership with Ura Gate Primary School and the Land & Life Foundation to build classrooms, fund scholarships, and deliver menstrual health campaigns.
- **Youth & Conservation Mentorship:** Conducting wildlife education drives, career mentorship, and bush excursions for local school students to inspire future conservation leaders.
- **Born Free Foundation Partnership:** Actively supporting wildlife protection and local community welfare in collaboration with the Born Free Foundation.







ELSA'S KOPJE
MERU
KENYA

connect with us

elewana
COLLECTION