



## Information Sheet

### LOCATION

Mugwangho Hill, Meru National Park

### ACCOMMODATION

9 open-plan cottages - 7 doubles and 2 twin rooms. All with en-suite bathrooms.

1 Honeymoon Suite - A large open-faced cottage with private sitting room, a double bedroom with en-suite bathroom and a small private deck.

Elsa's Private House - 1 double and 1 twin room both en-suite, with a shared sitting room, verandah and private pool.

4 rooms can fit one extra bed, to accommodate children under the age of 16yrs only.

The Honeymoon suite and Room 3 can each accommodate 2 extra beds for children under 16.

The Private house can fit two extra beds. A maximum of 4 extra beds in camp at any one time

### DESCRIPTION

Elsa's Kopje is named after Elsa the lioness, made famous by George and Joy Adamson's biographical book and film "Born Free". Elsa's Kopje remains one of the most elegant lodges in Africa, with one of the most spectacular settings. It is the best upmarket location to view rhino in their natural habitat in Kenya.

*Elsa's Kopje* is almost invisible to the eye as you approach its home on Mughwango Hill. It blends into the rocky crags of the "kopje" (small hill), built above the site of George Adamson's original campsite. Every cottage is the ultimate 'room-with-a-view', uniquely designed and crafted, incorporating the natural features of the rocky hillside. Each cottage has spacious double or twin beds with en suite, elegantly appointed bathrooms. There is an open bar, lounge and dining room with an exceptionally inviting infinity pool overlooking the Meru plains.

*Elsa's Private House* is a spacious, stylish, exclusive hideaway set slightly apart from the main lodge. It has 1 double room and 1 twin, both with their own en suite bathrooms. There is a large private living and dining area, leading seamlessly outdoors into a private garden and swimming pool.

*Elsa's Honeymoon Suite* is a triple level room, with a sitting room, double bedroom and en suite bathroom. With its breathtaking views, this latest addition is definitely Elsa's 'pride'!

### UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

- **Rhino Sanctuary** - Meru National Park incorporates a 44km<sup>2</sup> rhino sanctuary, home to over 40 white rhino, and 20 black rhino and several babies. The size of the sanctuary ensures a feeling of wilderness, and finding the rhino is still a game drive challenge!
- **History** - built overlooking the site of George Adamson's camp in Meru, the rock was the playground of Elsa the lioness of "Born Free" fame.
- **Location** - currently the only fully operational lodge in Meru National Park, Elsa's guests have the entire Park to themselves. The park is arid with Doum Palms and Baobab trees, but its 13 rivers and springs also allow for thriving riverine habitats. Meru National Park is known for its diversity of habitats and species. The lodge has special licence to walk, fish, and conduct night game drives. The peak of Mughwango Hill looks down over the park, affording a breathtaking 360° view of the surrounding volcanic plains.
- **Highly qualified guides** - all of the Elsa's Kopje guides have their bronze level KPSGA qualification, however several of the guides have the impressive Silver Level KPSGA qualification.

### AWARDS

- Best Safari Property in Africa - The Good Safari Guide 2010
- Best Safari Property in East Africa - The Good Safari Guide 2010
- Best Safari Camp in East Africa - The Good Safari Guide 2009
- Best Development, CNBC International Property Awards 2008
- Recipient of Africa's 1<sup>st</sup> Bronze Eco-rating Certificate, Ecotourism Society of Kenya (ESOK) 2003
- 101 Best Hotels - Tatler Travel Guide 2007.
- 10 of the World's Coolest Pools - The Daily Telegraph, Spring 2005.
- The 50 Best Honeymoons - The Independent, June 2001.

### ACTIVITIES

Day & Night (pre dinner) Game Drives

Guided Bush Walks

Bush Meals & Sundowners

Cultural Visits

Day Excursions to the Tana River with Packed Lunches

Line Fishing (Catfish and Barbel)

Swimming Pool / Massage / Shop

# Need To Know



## HOW TO GET THERE

Mughwango airstrip is a 5 minutes drive from the lodge

Kinna airstrip is a 45 minute drive from the lodge

- Once daily scheduled Air Kenya flight departing Nairobi Wilson at 09h15.
- Once daily scheduled Air Kenya flight to Nanyuki from Nairobi Wilson departing at 09h15 connecting with a private charter to Meru
- Twice daily scheduled Safari Link flight to Nanyuki departing at 08h00 and 10h20 to connect with a private charter.
- Private Charters from anywhere.
- All scheduled flights operate into "Kinna" Airstrip.
- Private charters can operate into Mughwango.

There is a helicopter pad which is a 2 minute drive from the lodge.

## NORTHERN SCENIC ROAD TRANSFERS

Per vehicle one way - max 5 pax

Elsa's Kopje - Lewa	\$ 330 - 2.5 hours
Elsa's Kopje - Nanyuki	\$ 330 - 3.5 hours
Elsa's Kopje - Ol Pejeta	\$ 330 - 4 hours
Elsa's Kopje - Joy's Camp	\$ 330 - 4 hours
Elsa's Kopje - Saruni Samburu	\$ 330 - 4.5 hours

## AIRSTRIp CO-ORDINATES

The airstrip is "Meru Mughwango" and the co-ordinates are:

N 00°07.24; E 038° 07.89

In case of bad weather, they have to divert to: "Kinna" co-ordinates:

N 00°09.689; E 038°11.679

## WHAT FORM OF PAYMENT DOES ELSA'S KOPJE ACCEPT?

Cash, Travellers Cheque, Visa card & MasterCard. We can't accept debit cards.

## WHAT FORM OF ELECTRICITY DOES ELSA'S KOPJE HAVE?

- Elsa's Kopje runs off solar inverter batteries and generators. All rooms have 24 hour power.
- Generator hours are from 06h00 - 09h00, and from 18h30 - 21h30.
- All the rooms have power 24 hours a day for lighting.
- There are plug sockets in every room for phone charging but all other appliances should be charged in the charging room, adjacent to the bar/restaurant.

- There is one hairdryer for guest use. It is situated in the swimming pool changing room, and can only be used during generator hours.
- Please note the system can not support hair dryers, bottle warmers etc. Please ask management if in any doubt.

Guests are recommended to bring converters & universal plug adaptors.

## MEAL POLICY

Individual dining

Breakfast: 06h45 to 09h30

Lunch: 13h00 to 14h00

Dinner: 20h00 to 21h00

The camp has a daily set menu.

Please inform us of any dietary requirements prior to arrival.

Guests that have booked to arrive before lunch, but do not, are charged for an extra lunch on their day of departure (if they require lunch on their day of departure).

## WATER

Each room is provided with a thermos of cooled mineral water (dispensed from a 20ltr sealed bottle, to reduce plastic waste). Bottled drinking water is available free of charge.

## WHAT VEHICLES DOES ELSA'S KOPJE HAVE?

5 x 4x4 Vehicles

- 5 x Land Cruisers Open sided  
7 Window seats - 7 seats in total

Guests will share their vehicle with others, unless 'Exclusive Use of Vehicle' has been paid for.

## MERU CLIMATE

- Altitude: 2,400 ft
- Rainfall; Approximately 16'' per year
- Hot days, warm nights, no humidity

## MALARIA

Please note that all C&P properties are situated in locations of minimal malarial risk. Elsa's Kopje rooms are sealed by netting and the beds have mosquito nets.

## WHAT LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN AT ELSA'S KOPJE?

One of our guides speaks basic French, all the rest speak English and Kiswahili.

## COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Internet: Available through our satellite link. There is a nominal charge for this service.

Mobile phones: Phone signal is available although may be limited in some areas or rooms dependant on position.

# Additional Information

## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

- The lodge buy fresh produce from the farmers on the borders of the park
- Where possible supplies are sourced from local traders.
- Elsa's Kopje maintains a close relationship with the Tharaka people, based near the Southern Boundary of the Park:
  - The lodge supports a local primary school for the Tharaka community just outside the park. Guests are encouraged to visit and support this project
  - Elsa's Kopje finances the building of this through school clients' donations and with direct funds coming from the lodge
  - Interested guests can visit a traditional village and enjoy a dancing performance for a fee that is paid to them directly.
- Elsa's Kopje employs and trained a number of staff from the local Kanjoo and Tharaka communities.
- Rubbish is responsibly disposed of or recycled. For example, glass is separated and given to the East African Women's League, which runs the "Glass for Glasses" project whereby glass is exchanged for eyeglasses for the poor.
- Elsa's Kopje believes in responsible tourism. The lodge consumes a minimum amount of energy, only using energy saving bulbs and trying to limit generator hours to only 6 hours per 24 hour period supplemented by solar energy. All hot water is heated by the sun
- Any timber used by the camp is either deadwood or taken from renewable sources, and every care is taken to make sure that the lodge's only impact on the reserve is a positive one.

## SPECIAL FEATURES & KEY WILDLIFE IN THE AREA

- 44km<sup>2</sup> rhino sanctuary - despite there being over 60 rhino in the sanctuary, the area is so large that you still need to game drive and search for your rhino!
- Meru National Park boasts 15 permanent rivers, which meander through otherwise dry terrain flanked by rich vegetation of Doum and Raphia Palms. The areas around Elsa's Kopje are incredibly diverse, varying from dense thickets and wooded grasslands to open plains.
- Meru's rich wildlife diversity includes rare species specific to northern Kenya, such as Grevy's zebra, gerenuk, Somali ostrich, reticulated giraffe, lesser kudu, and more than 350 bird species, as well as buffalo, elephants, lion, cheetah and leopard.

## PRESS COMMENTS

- "The remote, perfectly-preserved natural environment allows visitors to explore the park at their own pace, with no other tourists in sight." - Cote Magazine - July 2010
- "Northern Italian cuisine blended with a selection of local and international dishes, fresh baked bread, crisp salads and locally grown vegetables" - Living etc Magazine - January 2010
- "Meru is one of the less-visited national parks, but here you will encounter more diversity of animal species than any other in East Africa. Stay at Elsa's Kopje... and your open-fronted cottage will be the ultimate 'room with a view'." - The Daily Telegraph - January 2009
- "...a hidden jewel amid untamed wilderness" - Harrods Magazine - December 2009
- "Heaven for romantics" - The Daily Telegraph, February 2007.
- "Enter the Born Free world of Joy Adamson" - In Style Magazine, September 2007.
- "A perfect lodge where you will be pampered, challenged, thrilled and blown away by what mother nature has to offer" - Irish Wedding Diary, June 2006.

## COMMENTS FROM ELSA'S KOPJE VISITORS BOOK

- An amazing introduction to the wilds of Africa. Thank you for a fantastic experience and understanding of how people have been inspired to help the wilildfe in the wild.
- Travelling for 40 years in Africa and this was the very best lodge. Extrordianary, everything - friendly staff, exceptional food, beautifully kept rooms the best of everything I will come back.
- Thankyou so much for a wonderful stay. The Leopards lions. Ellies and hippos were fabulous! Your staff are amazing and we truly appreciated their efforts.
- Thankyou for a truly unforgettable experience, we could not have stayed anywhere more magical for our honeymoon - only wish it was longer! The room, environment, staff were magical and this was as close to paradise as we could imagine being.
- Elsas Kopje is Africas Best Kept secret! We lived an outstanding African adventure with the kindest peope we have ever met! Thank you all for an amazing opportunity to benefit from such an amazing place and wildlife! We loved the lions and special thanks to our guide francis.