

SMALL OUTFITS, BIG SAFARIS

If you want to experience Kenya in a big way, go small.

Some of Kenya's most compelling camps and lodges are tiny, independently-owned outposts tucked into the corners of the country where only the best outfitters will thrive. Forget the corporate rulebooks. Here, decisions are made round the campfire and your guide isn't following a script. Want to stay out another hour to track those elephants on foot? Absolutely. Skipping the morning game drive for a lie-in? No problem. Fancy an evening swim in a mountain pool? Let's go - the gin and tonics are already packed!

The camps themselves tend to be unfussy, characterful and deeply rooted in their surroundings. And speaking of surroundings, picture remote forests in the Mathews Mountains, the wild Loita Hills, private Mara conservancies and forgotten Samburu lands where elephants wander through camp, fireflies drift overhead and the distant clonk of cowbells carries on the still night air.

This is the very special side of Kenya that is small, personal and quietly adventurous. Very few people will ever experience it, but those in the know understand that real luxury is having ultimate freedom, and someone who knows the land like the back of their hand to show you the way.

EXPLORE KENYA



ICONIC DESTINATIONS

Neither the Maasai Mara nor Amboseli need much introduction – they're world famous for immense wildlife densities and thrilling sightings. But you needn't follow the crowd...

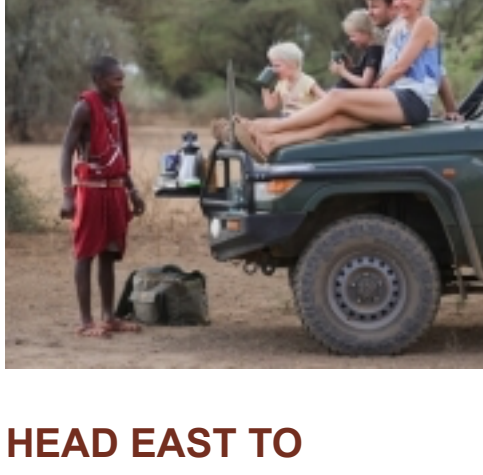


BEGIN IN THE ICONIC MAASAI MARA

ALEX WALKER'S SERIAN

Serian 'The Original' embodies the essence of a classic safari, set on a peaceful section of the Mara River on a private conservancy that borders the main Maasai Mara reserve. Enjoy all the thrills and spills of this iconic destination in intimate, characterful style with your hosts, Roisin and Adrian Allen, who we personally know and love!

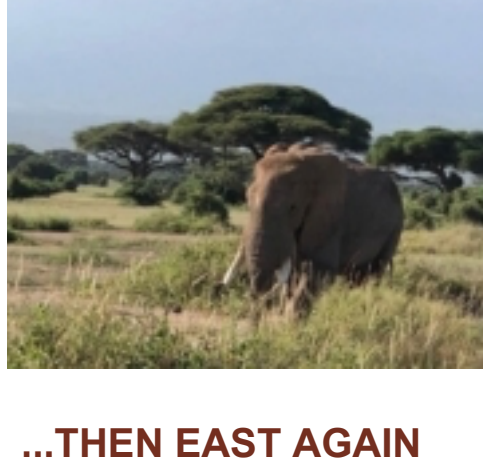
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HEAD EAST TO SHOMPOLE... SHOMPOLE WILDERNESS

Head slightly off the beaten track with a stop at Shompole, perfectly placed between the Mara and Amboseli. Here, owners Johan and Sam du Toit, along with their two children, will have you exploring the Kenyan bush in a way that feels rather like staying with your favourite madcap family friends. Photographers will love the hides developed in partnership with Will Burrard-Lucas.

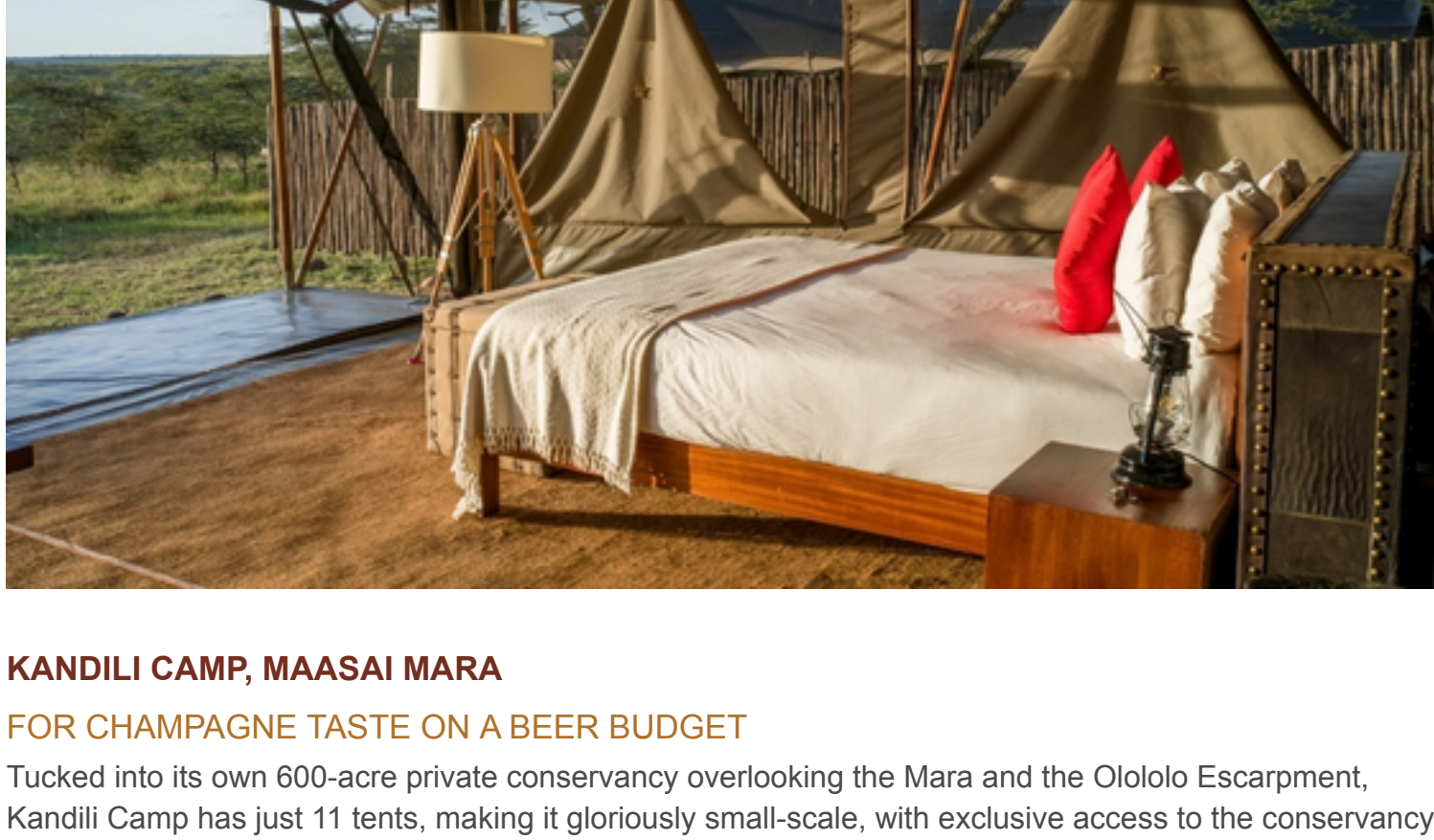
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...THEN EAST AGAIN TO AMBOSELI TAWI LODGE

Continue to Tawi Lodge, secreted into a 3,000-acre private conservancy on the edge of Amboseli, with majestic views of Kilimanjaro from each of its 13 cottages. This is elephant country, with huge herds wandering through the conservancy and regularly visiting the waterhole in front of camp. Being outside the national park also means you can get out and explore on foot.

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KANDILI CAMP, MAASAI MARA

FOR CHAMPAGNE TASTE ON A BEER BUDGET

Tucked into its own 600-acre private conservancy overlooking the Mara and the Olololo Escarpment, Kandili Camp has just 11 tents, making it gloriously small-scale, with exclusive access to the conservancy and a wonderfully flexible approach to safari. Being just 20 minutes from the famous Mara Reserve, but outside the national park, means you can get out on foot, with no crowds and plenty of space to explore the bush on your own terms. It's a fantastic, understated little camp that proves you don't need to spend a fortune for an authentic, highly personal safari experience.

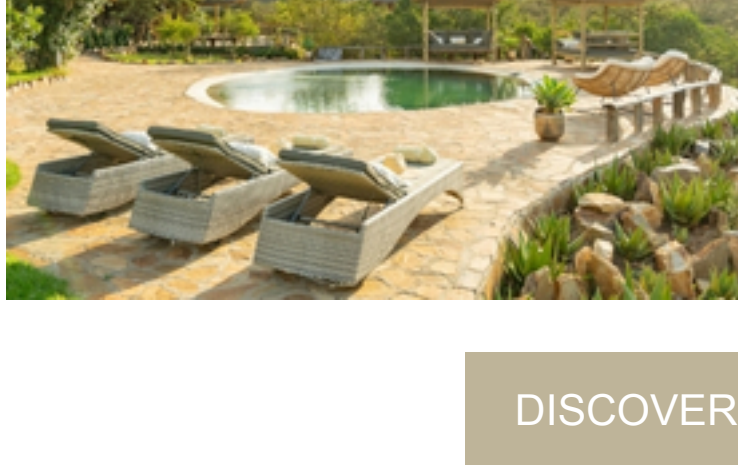
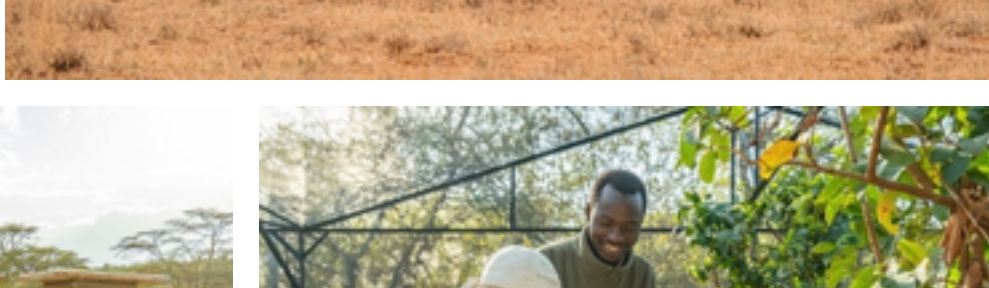
[READ MORE ABOUT KANDILI CAMP](#)



WOW FACTOR FOR FAMILIES IN LAIKIPIA

Part small-scale cattle farm, part wildlife conservancy, El Karama has been in the same family for generations, and arriving here feels like being welcomed into their world. Colin Grant, a world-renowned sculptor, has his studio on site, while Sophie Grant runs the organic kitchen garden and writes the menus, and a small herd of cattle provides much of the lodge's dairy produce.

The surrounding conservancy is rich in 'Big Five' wildlife, making for excellent game drives and bush walks, while children are warmly welcomed, quickly befriended by the Grants' own children, and entertained with a host of activities, from animal husbandry to breadmaking.



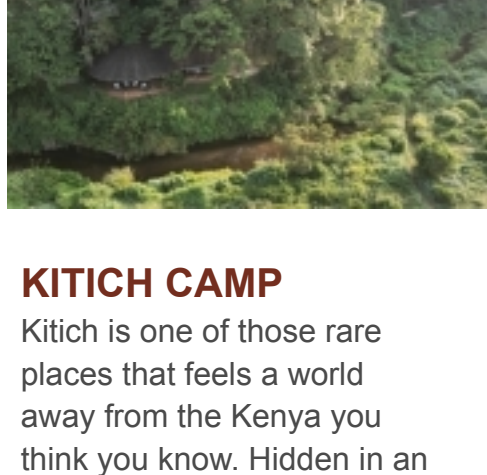
DISCOVER EL KARAMA



UNIQUE & UNEXPECTED

Some gems are simply too rare and unique to fit neatly into a category.

None of these destinations would be considered 'classic' safari destinations, but each is so breathtakingly special that they deserve to be celebrated.



KITICH CAMP

Kitich is one of those rare places that feels a world away from the Kenya you think you know. Hidden in an ancient forest glade high in the Mathews Mountains, this tiny tented camp is surrounded by extraordinary biodiversity and is best explored on foot with Samburu guides who know every trail, track and hidden pool. The optional fly camping experience will give you goosebumps!

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OLEPANGI FARM

Set beneath Mount Kenya, this characterful working farm is filled with riotous flower gardens, art, antiques and maximalist wallpaper. Days revolve around long lunches among the tomato plants, horse riding, walks and game drives across the Laikipia Plateau. If you've ever enjoyed the farm-to-fork experience of the Cape Winelands and wondered how it might translate to Kenya, Olepangi could be for you.

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DESERT ROSE

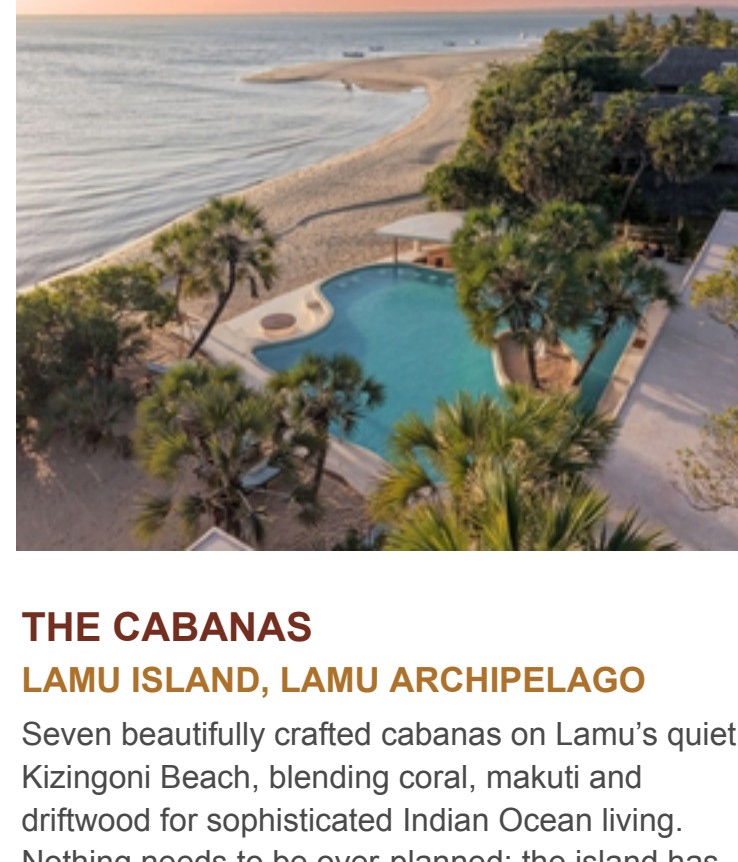
High on the cedar-clad slopes of Mount Nyiro, hewn from the mountain itself, Desert Rose is deeply rooted in the generational stories of those who call the mountains home. The landscapes of Kenya's rugged northern frontier are truly breathtaking. Everything at the lodge is handmade, including the carved wooden bathtubs, which speak to the exquisite craftsmanship and unique luxury of this remote hideaway.

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KICK BACK ON THE COAST

The Lamu Archipelago is a string of mangrove-fringed islands off the coast of Kenya. Inhabited for over seven centuries, it stands as a testament to the enduring Swahili culture and whispers tales of a rich and storied past. Beyond its historic streets, the archipelago is awash with white-sand beaches and clear, calm waters - a heavenly beach escape with heritage and soul.



MANDA BAY

MANDA ISLAND, LAMU ARCHIPELAGO

A secluded barefoot retreat on its very own island, where white-sand beaches, turquoise waters, Swahili-style bandas, fresh seafood and adventures by dhow come together in perfect island simplicity.

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THE CABANAS

LAMU ISLAND, LAMU ARCHIPELAGO

Seven beautifully crafted cabanas on Lamu's quiet Kizungoni Beach, blending local, makuti and driftwood for sophisticated Indian Ocean living. Nothing needs to be over-planned; the island has its own way of filling the days.

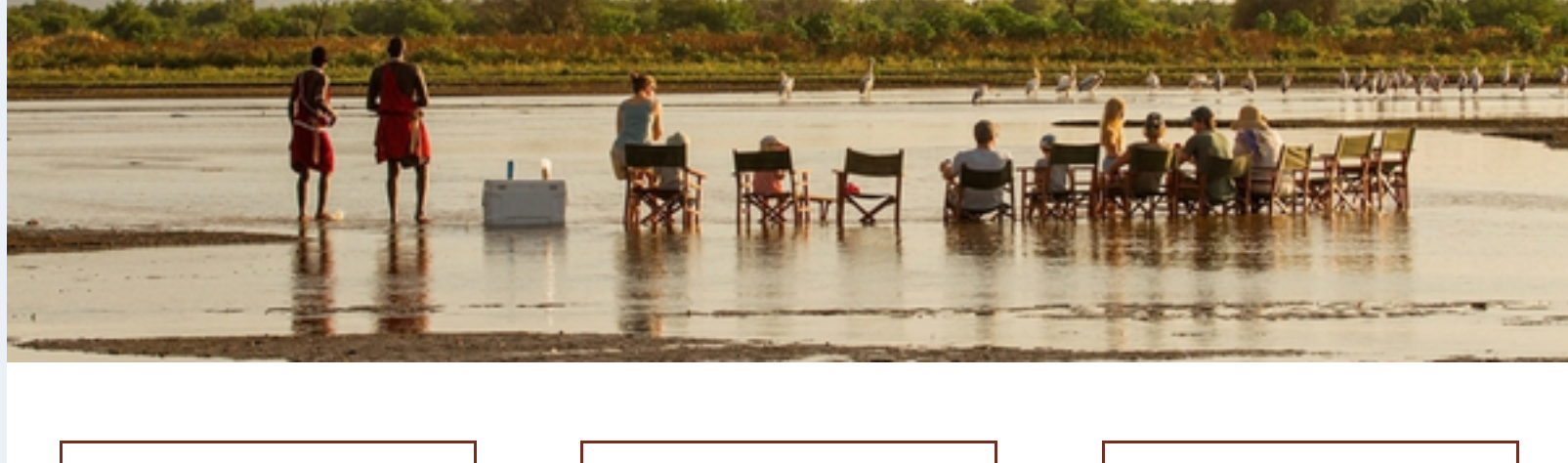
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