

TRACKS SAFARIS

WE GET YOU CLOSER



KENYA LION RESEARCH SAFARI A 7 NIGHT KENYAN ADVENTURE!



This unique safari will provide you with an authentic and close-up insight into lion research in some of Kenya's most stunning areas. Spend 4 days with a lion research expert from the Ewaso Lions with 4 nights at Sasaab Camp followed by 3 nights at Porini Lion Camp in the famous Maasai Mara in the exclusive Olare Motorogi Conservancy. Research has shown that Olare Motorogi and its neighbouring Conservancies have the highest density of wild lions in Africa. Income from tourism pays for the conservancy land to be set aside for wildlife, so your visit will directly support conservation. In addition, 5% of the total safari cost is donated directly to the Ewaso Lions project (www.ewasolions.org).

Your time will typically include early morning and evening game drives when the lions are most active, participating in monitoring and recording and can also include the following:

- Participate in Ewaso Lions tree project and Wildlife Cinema in West Gate. This involves visiting schools and also manyattas (Samburu homesteads) at night to show them wildlife films.
- Carnivore 'call-ins' at night playing a recorded carnivore call and using speakers to call in carnivores as a method to estimate their density.
- Engage with the community and complete questionnaires on conflict and perceptions of predators.
- Track radio-collared lions.
- Go on patrol with the Ewaso Lions scouts and help record data on predators and identify spoor tracks.
- Help record data in the core Conservation Area
- Investigate any conflict in the area, e.g. donkey killed by lion, etc...

Lion conservation recently became an issue of international concern when statistics revealed that lion numbers in Africa have plummeted to between 16,000 and 45,000. The lion population has declined by 30%-50% in just over the past two decades, a reduction largely due to habitat loss and conflict with humans. The lions in the Samburu / Buffalo Springs / Shaba ecosystem of Kenya are in an extremely vulnerable situation as they live in or adjacent to areas inhabited by nomadic people. Lions and their predatory behaviour have caused great resentment among the increasing rural pastoralist populations, and this has led to increased persecution of lions – lions continue to be shot, poisoned and speared.



This unique safari will provide you with an authentic and close-up insight into lion research in some of Kenya's most stunning areas. Spend 4 days with a lion research expert from the Ewaso Lions with 4 nights at Sasaab Camp and 3 nights at Porini Lion Camp in the famous Maasai Mara in an exclusive conservancy with several resident prides of lion.

You will have the opportunity to be involved in this crucial research and 5% of the total safari cost will be donated to the Ewaso lions project (www.ewasolions.org).

About Ewaso Lions:

Ewaso Lions takes its name from the mighty Ewaso Nyiro River (also called the Ewaso Ng'iro) which starts on the slopes of Mt Kenya and snakes its way through Laikipia and Samburu. The Ewaso (pronounced "eh-wah-so") serves as a lifeline for the people and wildlife in the area. Ewaso Lions was formed to ensure a future for lions and other large carnivores in northern Kenya.

Ewaso Lions uses scientific research and community-based outreach programmes to promote coexistence between lions and people. Ewaso Lions firmly believes that the success of lion conservation hinges on the involvement of the local people who live alongside lions. Ewaso Lions programmes promote human-carnivore coexistence, provide education, and build local capacity for wildlife rangers and community leaders. Ewaso Lions' core research activities focus on understanding the factors driving lion pride establishments, their associations and movements in the wild, the extent of human-lion conflict, and the impact of habitat loss in order to formulate strategies for long-term lion conservation.

The research is centred in northern Kenya's Samburu, Laikipia, and Isiolo Counties, which comprise one contiguous ecosystem. This region is home to the third largest populations of lions, cheetahs, and wild dogs in Kenya. The research covers four major land use types: community conservancies, group ranches (public lands), protected areas, and private ranches. The study area covers almost 5,000 km² of lion habitat, which includes National Reserves (Samburu, Buffalo Springs, and Shaba), Community Conservancies (Westgate, Mpus Kutuk, Kalama, Nasuulu, and Nakupurat Gotu), and Laikipia's private ranches. Ewaso Lions is an independent non-profit organisation and relies on the generous support of organisations and individuals.



Itinerary - duration: 7 nights / 8 days

Day One

Depart from Wilson Airport for your scheduled flight to Samburu National Reserve. The Sasaab Lodge's guide in a 4x4 vehicle will meet you at the Samburu airstrip and transfer you to the Lodge. Settle into your spacious room overlooking the river and then meet a lion expert from Ewaso Lions, over lunch, you will be briefed on the lions in the area, the research and opportunities to participate over the next few days. Sasaab is located above the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River, in the arid heart of Samburu land, a tranquil setting that offers views towards the Laikipia plateau and Mount Kenya. After lunch, relax in your room and then take an afternoon game drive to track the resident 'community lions' returning for dinner.

Overnight Sasaab Lodge



Day Two

Full day with guided bush walks, lion tracking and visits to the local community to monitor lion predation of livestock and other such issues. All meals at the camp.

Overnight Sasaab Lodge.

Day Three

After an early morning cup of coffee/tea depart for an early morning game drive. Later on, return to the Lodge for breakfast. Mid-morning is at leisure. The Ewaso Nyiro River (Brown river in the local language) winds through mature stands of Newtonia and Sycamore Fig trees, Acacia and Doum Palms, one of the few branching palms to be found anywhere in the world. Enjoy your lunch at the Lodge. Afternoon game drive will give you another opportunity to explore the wilderness of the reserve returning for dinner.

Overnight Sasaab Lodge.

Day Four

Spend the day in the Samburu National Reserve with picnic lunch tracking lions and viewing the numerous wildlife drawn to the river, many of which are unique to this part of Kenya including the endangered Grevy's Zebra.

All meals and overnight Sasaab Lodge.



Day Five

After breakfast transfer to the Samburu airstrip for schedule flight to the Masai Mara National Reserve. You will be met at the Olare Orok airstrip by the camp's guide in a 4x4 vehicle and take game drive to Porini Lion Camp, located in the Olare Motorogi Conservancy, famous for its numerous lion prides. Afternoon game drives in 4x4 vehicle within the game rich Mara ecosystem followed by a sundowner before dinner and **overnight at Porini Lion Camp**.



Day Six

Full day in the Masai Mara with picnic lunch.

All meals at the camp.

Overnight Porini Lion Camp.

Day Seven - Optional Balloon Safari and Champagne Breakfast.

After an early breakfast, go on a morning walk in the Conservancy escorted by Maasai warriors and a guide, returning to the camp later in the morning. In the afternoon you will go on a game drive to explore more of the Olare Motorogi Conservancy on the lookout not only for the Lion but also elephants, buffalo, giraffe and other big cats. Enjoy a night game drive after dinner in search of the nocturnal animals including Lion and the elusive Leopards which are resident in the expansive Olare Motorogi Conservancy.

Overnight Porini Lion Camp.

Day Eight

One last early morning game drive or guided bush walk, before returning to the camp for breakfast. Check out for transfer to the Olare Orok airstrip where you will board a scheduled flight back to Wilson Airport in Nairobi where you will be met and transferred to the International Airport or your Nairobi hotel.

There are connections to Mombasa, Lamu or Zanzibar where you may opt for a few days of relaxation at the beach – please ask!



TRACKS SAFARIS – WE GET YOU CLOSER TO LIONS!

