



RIDE WORLD WIDE

Kenya

Borana Lodge 2012

Ride Information Sheet

Borana Lodge is owned by Michael and Nicky Dyer, third generation Kenyans whose family have lived in Kenya for over 75 years. It is part of the 35,000 acres Borana Ranch, a working cattle and agricultural ranch on northern Kenya's Laikipia plateau, about a 4 hour drive (or an hour's charter flight), north of Nairobi. The ranch itself sits in a vast conservation area and the lodge, which is built on a hillside at about 6,000 feet overlooking the Samangua valley and has been managed for the last couple of years by Sam Taylor and Flick Woodhouse, is in a fantastic position with panoramic views. There is a waterhole below where game often congregate to drink and towering above the bush, on the distant horizon, is the massive peak of Mount Kenya. Horses and game are integral to life at Borana Ranch and the Dyer family is dedicated to working alongside neighbouring landowners to preserve the area's natural environment and to promote economic and social improvements for local people. The lodge's superb location, its luxurious but relaxed feel and the opportunities it offers for game viewing, for adventurous exploration of the rugged bush and also to see modern Kenyan ranch life at first hand, make it a wonderful safari choice.



Dates The lodge is open to guests year round (except in November when closes for Kenya's seasonal rains). Stays can be organised to suit, for anything from 2 to about 14 nights and itineraries can include a night or two in a comfortable tented "fly" camp as well as the lodge itself, if you wish. For groups of 4 or more, mobile itineraries for 7 to 10 days using different fly camps and lodges can be arranged on request.

The Horses The horses used at Borana are mixed breeds of between about 14.2hh and 16.2hh with some pure thoroughbreds and some thoroughbred and Ethiopian crosses. There are about 23 safari horses at the lodge's stables, about a 15 minute game drive from the lodge itself, and another 50 or so, including breeding stock and polo ponies, at one of the Dyer family farms a little further away. There is also a stable yard at Ngare Ndare, where Michael's mother Rose Dyer breeds Ethiopian cross ponies for children and has several horses that are ideal for beginners. All in all there is a good selection of horses for riders of different standards, ranging from responsive, fun and forward going polo ponies and thoroughbred crosses, to steady, reliable schoolmasters. All are sensible to handle, used to game and at home in the bush. Grooms look after the horses at the stables, prepare them for rides and travel with you if you 'fly' camp or ride to another lodge. Tack is English style, either English general purpose saddles (leather or good quality Wintecs), Australian stock saddles and one western saddle. Sheepskin seat savers (made in Borana's own tannery) are provided, as are saddle-bags whenever necessary. There is no strict weight limit for riders but if you are 95 kgs / 15 stone or more, please contact us to check that a suitable horse(s) are available.

Riding The amount of riding you do whilst staying at Borana is entirely up to you. Riding is optional and can be combined with some of the many other activities available - but if you wish, you can spend up to 6 hours in the saddle each day, riding out on morning, afternoon or longer day rides and perhaps also riding to a 'fly' camp. Mobile safaris, moving on each day and riding to other lodges and camps can be arranged for groups of 4 or more experienced riders. Experienced riders can also try their hand at polo with chances to 'stick and ball' or to play a friendly practice chukka - Michael Dyer is a good player and there are often plenty of locals keen for a game. Borana lodge sleeps a maximum of 16 guests but riding groups are generally small, usually a maximum of 8 guests in a riding group (occasionally more). Where guests are of widely varying ability, they are split to ride so that novice riders ride with a separate guide - although you are welcome to ride with your own group and guide if you prefer. Rides are lead by a guide and accompanied by a back up rider / groom. Michael and his wife Nicky often guide rides themselves or they may be lead by one of their assistants or by one of the local guides who are all experienced in the bush. Children who are reasonably experienced are welcome to ride from the Borana stables, otherwise beginners and children may experience a short ride from the stables at Ngare Ndare where the environment is more controlled and big game highly unlikely.



Pace As the riding is tailored to suit, the pace varies, although it always depends on the weather and terrain, as well as riders' ability and wishes. The going on and around the lodge is quite varied; there are good places for long canters along soft, dirt tracks and sandy river-beds, as well as across open, scrub covered plains. There are also places where the bush is thick and thorny or the going rough (perhaps climbing down into valleys) so the pace has to be slower - but overall, the riding is at a well varied pace with good chances to trot and canter.

Riding Experience Riders of different abilities are well catered for at Borana with riding hours and the pace tailored to suit - but as the riding takes place in an open, unfenced area where there is big (and potentially dangerous) game including elephant and lion, all riders must have some previous riding experience. Children and novices can be taken by prior arrangement - there is a fenced schooling area at the Borana stables and young children and novice riders can ride out on short rides at Ngare Ndare, one of the family farms - but generally as a minimum, all riders should be well balanced and secure in the saddle, confident and able to control a well-schooled horse at a walk, trot and canter. If you do not ride regularly at home, you should also accustom yourself to the time you will spend in the saddle with concentrated training before you go.

The Terrain The Laikipia plateau and area around Borana is one of Kenya's most beautiful. The views are magnificent and the landscape varies from dry lowlands dotted with scrub and acacia thorn at the foot of the escarpment, to rolling grassy plains and the thicker Ngare Ngare Forest further up, all overlooked by the snow capped peak of Mount Kenya. Open plains, dry river-beds and wide dirt tracks provide good going for horses and there are hidden valleys, rocky, winding descents and ascents leading to high ridges, and panoramic views across the great expanses of Africa.

Game Borana Ranch lies at a height of about 6,500 feet at the foot of Mount Kenya and adjacent to the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. The 35,000acre ranch is home to a wide diversity of game including elephant, buffalo, the beautifully marked reticulated giraffe, zebra (both Grevy's and Burchells zebra), waterbuck, eland, bushbuck, impala, baboon and monkeys. You may also see Jackson's hartebeest, wild dog (there have been frequent sighting of wild dog, which are becoming increasingly rare in Kenya, on Borana in the last 12 months), cheetah, lion, klipspringer and perhaps also leopard and Colobus monkey in the more forested areas. The Lodge itself is built in a carefully chosen spot on the edge of a valley and good sized herds of elephant, buffalo and zebra are often seen drinking at the waterhole close by, whilst smaller game such as rock hyrax, monkeys and African Hare often wander into the garden! The Lewa Conservancy is home to the 'big five' (elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard and rhino) and is one of the only areas of Kenya where you can see both black and white rhino. It is also home to over 25% of the world's dwindling population of Grevy's zebra, as well as reticulated giraffe, eland, ostrich, Grant's gazelle, reedbuck, hyena (both brown and spotted), jackal and Bat-eared fox, all of which are also often seen at Borana. Over 300 species of birds have been recorded at the ranch including many that are rare and seldom seen.



Accommodation Accommodation at Borana lodge, which sleeps up to 16 guests in individual cottages set around central living, dining and reception areas, is very comfortable, stylish and well thought out. The lodge buildings are built of stone, wood and thatch and are set into the hillside overlooking the valley. The cottages and main lodge are joined by gardens with well-tended lawns, flower-beds and stone paths; there is a terrace with an 'infinity' swimming pool, thatched pool house with amazing views and comfortable sofas and chairs. The guest cottages are built on separate levels around the main lodge and are very well secluded. Some are on two floors and each has a large, well-designed en-suite bathroom with bath and shower, an open fireplace (fires are lit for you on return from late afternoon rides or game drives) and a private veranda with chairs, table and views over the valley. They are all individual. One is a large, luxury 'family' cottage with two separate bedrooms and bathrooms either side of an adjoining sitting room and private plunge pool - perfect for families with children or for those wanting complete privacy. The whole lodge is decorated in luxurious, but unaffected style with chunky handmade wooden furniture and rugs on polished wooden floors. Some cottages have large four-poster beds, all have extras such as hairdryers and hand-made soap, shower gels and shampoo are provided. Electricity comes from a generator, combined with battery powered inverter systems in all the rooms ensuring 24 hour power supply. Water is heated in wood-burning stoves just outside the rooms. If you would like to organise a 'mobile' safari as part of your stay at Borana, you have the option of spending a night or two in a temporary 'fly' camp which will be transported and set up ahead of you by staff or, for groups of 4 or more, we can organise longer rides that include nights in a fly camp and also nights in other lodges in the area - Tassia Community Lodge is within a day's ride of Borana and there are several other lodges such as Lewa Safari Camp or Il N'gwesi Community Lodge that can be built into a trip on request. If you choose a fly camp, accommodation will be simple but reasonably comfortable, in spacious 'dome' tents, with stretcher beds, chairs and tables and with 'bucket and pulley' showers and long drop loos shared between guests. The camp will be set up ahead by staff who will also prepare meals and look after the horses. Accommodation at Borana or in fly camps is based on two sharing and a single supplement is payable if you are travelling alone and there is no-one to share with. There is an airstrip at Borana and direct private charters from Nairobi take about ½ hour. There are also scheduled flights to Lewa, about 1 ¼ hours game drive from the lodge through the Lewa Conservancy.

Meals Meals at Borana are a highlight - carefully thought out, plentiful and always delicious! Ingredients are fresh, bread is baked every day and much of the meat, vegetables and dairy produce used are produced on the ranch itself. Days normally start with tea or coffee brought to your room, then, depending on your plans, you might have a substantial breakfast, with a choice of fruit, porridge, toast and a full English breakfast if you wish, in the lodge dining room. Lunch, generally two courses buffet style, is either served at the lodge on your return from riding - or you may stop when out riding for a picnic or 'bush brunch'. Tea and cakes mid-afternoon before evening game activities are followed by pre-dinner drinks, accompanied by appetising snacks in front of the fire. Dinner is three courses by candlelight usually at a long table in the main dining room with the option of a private dinner on your veranda or perhaps out in the bush if you wish. There is a good varied bar and a selection of spirits, wine, beer and soft drinks (as well as plenty of ice) are all included in your stay.



Other activities Borana is a wonderful place for both riders and non-riders and a great choice for experienced riders, for a group of mixed riding ability and also for families with children. As well as riding, game drives and walks with an experienced guide and Masai trackers are always an option and Aerial radio tracking of lion and elephant give a special insight into local conservation projects. A hide at the dam below the lodge and a tree platform not far away are great spots for game viewing and bird watching and mountain bikes are available for the fit (who are used to off-road biking - the going is quite rough!) to explore the ranch. Day trips to the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy are another option (extra entrance fee charged) and overnight or day trips to Lake Turkana to visit Dr Leaky's excavation site 'The Origins of Mankind' can be organised on request. Closer to the lodge, you can visit a local Masai village and / or one of the neighbouring Community lodges, Kisima Farm (where cut flowers - one of Kenya's biggest exports - are grown for export) or the Dyer family farms to see breeding mares and foals. Some of the ranch's dams have been stocked with *Tilapia niloticus* and can provide entertainment for the keen fisherman, who can also arrange a helicopter or road trip to the challenging but rewarding streams on Mount Kenya - where you can also play golf! There is an 'in house' masseuse and reflexologist at the lodge (extra charge) and experienced (though not professionally qualified) nannies are available with babysitting organised on request. Borana was the winner of the Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards - Poverty Reduction Category in November 2007 and actively supports many local and community projects. These include a mobile medical clinic and a small tannery, which buys hides from local farmers and employs blind and handicapped people from the local community to make wonderful leather products such as sheepskin saddle covers, slippers and belts. The lodge and ranch also provide scholarships each year to the best students at local schools allowing them to take further education and provide vital employment for about 200 local people. As a guest at the lodge you are able to visit some of the ongoing projects, schools and medical mission and this gives a real insight into the lives of local people and the ways in which tourism can support the local population. Other activities such as camel safaris, balloon and light aircraft trips or Mount Kenya climbs can easily be organised on request.

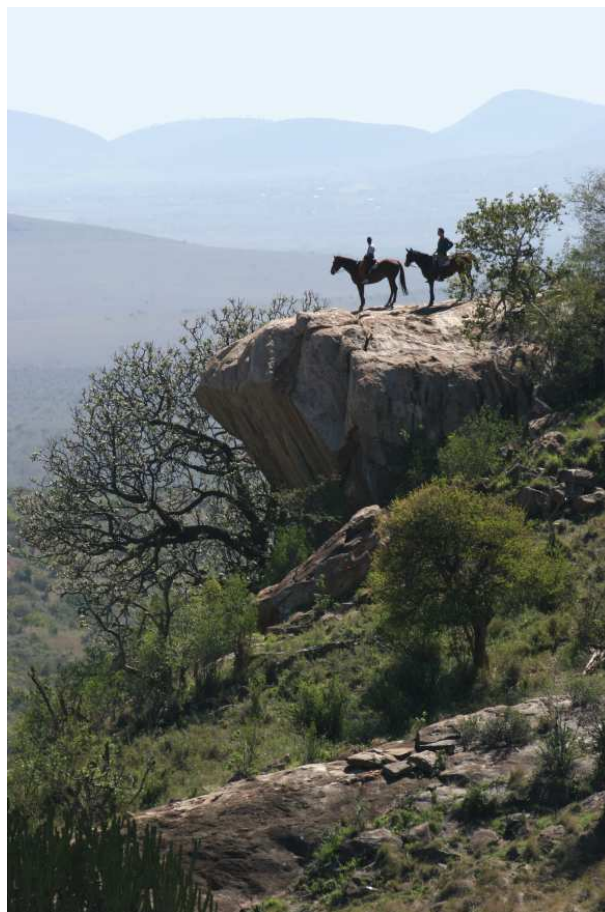
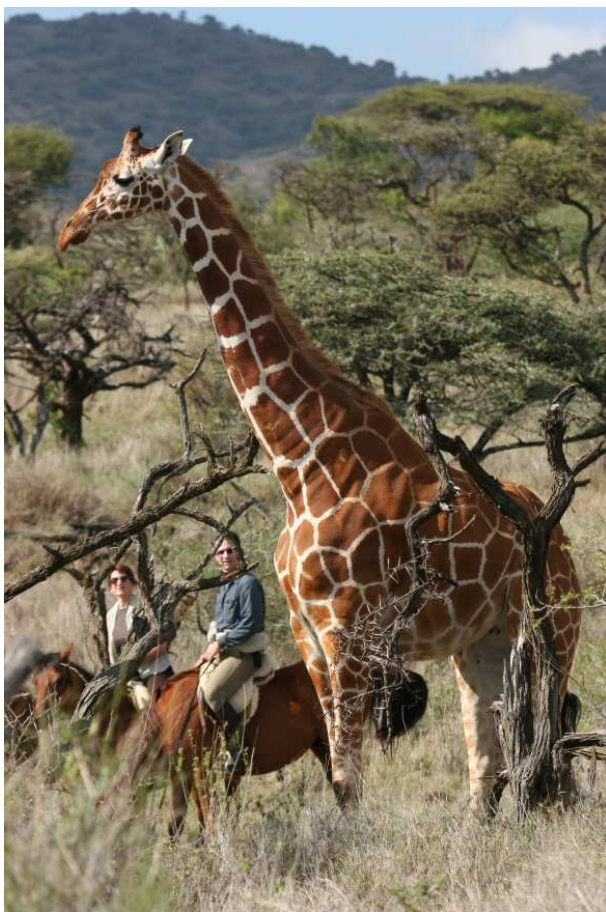


Itineraries The following is an example itinerary for a 6 night stay at Borana, although please note that this is only an example. Your hosts will always do as much as they can to arrange your stay according to individual wishes, but day-by-day arrangements may be varied in their discretion if the movement of game, weather or other local conditions require. A few days at Borana also combines very well with a few days at Ol Donyo Lodge in southern Kenya (see separate information sheet and contact us for an example itinerary). Please also contact us for example itineraries for mobile safaris of 7 to 10 days, using fly camps and other lodges, which can be arranged for groups of 4 to 10 riders.

Example itinerary Borana - 6 night stay

[Flight to Nairobi (eg Kenya Airways departing London Heathrow at about 20.00 and arriving Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi early the next day)]

Day 1 - You will be met from your international flight in Nairobi and transferred by car (usually 40 minutes to one hour depending on traffic) to the domestic Wilson airport for a scheduled charter flight to Lewa Downs airstrip on the Laikipia Plateau. Met on arrival at Lewa and a game drive of about 1 ¼ hours to Borana Lodge, a wonderful chance to see some of the unusual game found in the Lewa Wildlife conservancy including Grevy's zebra and Jackson's Hartebeest. [A direct charter from Nairobi to the Borana airstrip, 10 minutes from the lodge, is possible for an extra charge]. Arrive at Borana and shown to your rooms before a late lunch at the lodge and a chance to meet your hosts. Time to discuss plans for your stay and then, if you wish, a short drive to the stables to meet the horses and a late afternoon ride to try them and for a first view of the area. Dinner and night at Borana. (L,D)



Day 2 - Your first full day at the lodge. You might opt for an early breakfast, then an early morning ride of 3 or 4 hours to explore the open grassy plains that surround the stables. The plains are dotted with whistling thorn and acacia and there are numerous pretty rocky valleys to explore. There is also lots of game and you are likely to see elephant - you might ride to one of the dams and see a family group wallowing in the water and mud - giraffe (the native giraffe in this part of Kenya are the Reticulated Giraffe which have wonderful distinct markings), zebra, eland and numerous small antelope. If you prefer, as an alternative to riding, you can choose an early morning game drive or walk with a guide before returning to the lodge for a swim and lunch in the shade by the pool. After lunch there will be time for a siesta, then tea is usually at about 3.45pm followed by your choice of evening ride, walk or game drive. Return to the lodge as the sun sets, looking out for game en route, then a hot bath, relaxing dinner and overnight at Borana. (B,L,D)

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Day 3 to 6 - Your stay at Borana is very flexible and you can choose when you would like your wake up call, perhaps opting for an early wake up each morning with tea and coffee brought to your room or for a more leisurely start to the day with time to enjoy Borana's comfort and service. Breakfast will be followed by your choice of early morning ride, game drive or guided walk or you might decide on a longer ride, stopping for a picnic lunch in a shady spot en-route. Game often comes to drink at the waterhole below the lodge, there are lion and other cats on the ranch and you are sure to have some wonderful game viewing. Late afternoon game drives can be extended to return to the lodge after dark - a chance to spot nocturnal game, such as leopard, aardvark and bushbabies, with a spotlight - and night drives later in the evening are organised on request. If you wish you will also be able to take a day trip to the neighbouring Lewa Wildlife Conservancy or to spend a few hours game viewing and bird watching in the hide or on the tree platform close to the lodge. When not riding or game viewing, you can enjoy the lodge's lovely swimming pool and there are plenty of other activities on offer such as mountain bikes, visits to a local Masai village (USD20 US donation requested), to the Borana tannery, the Kisima flower farm and local school. Four nights Borana (B,L,D).

Day 7 -Breakfast, then depart for Lewa airstrip to meet the scheduled flight back to Nairobi. (B)



RATES 2012:

Please note that due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, safari rates are now quoted in USUSD. The sterling price will be the equivalent sterling rate using the USD/sterling exchange rate in force when you book/pay.

Rates are per person, are seasonal and assume twin shared accommodation

Green season (1st March to 30th May & 1st to 19th December):

USD 560 per person per night; single supplement USD100 per night

Child sharing 5 to 12 years: USD 300 per child per night

Mid season (3rd January to 28th February & 1st to 30th June):

USD 600 per person per night; single supplement USD100 per night

Child sharing 5 to 12 years: USD 340 per child per night

High season (1st July to 31st October & 20th December to 2nd January 2013):

USD 690 per person per night; single supplement USD100 per night

Child sharing 5 to 12 years: USD 375 per child per night

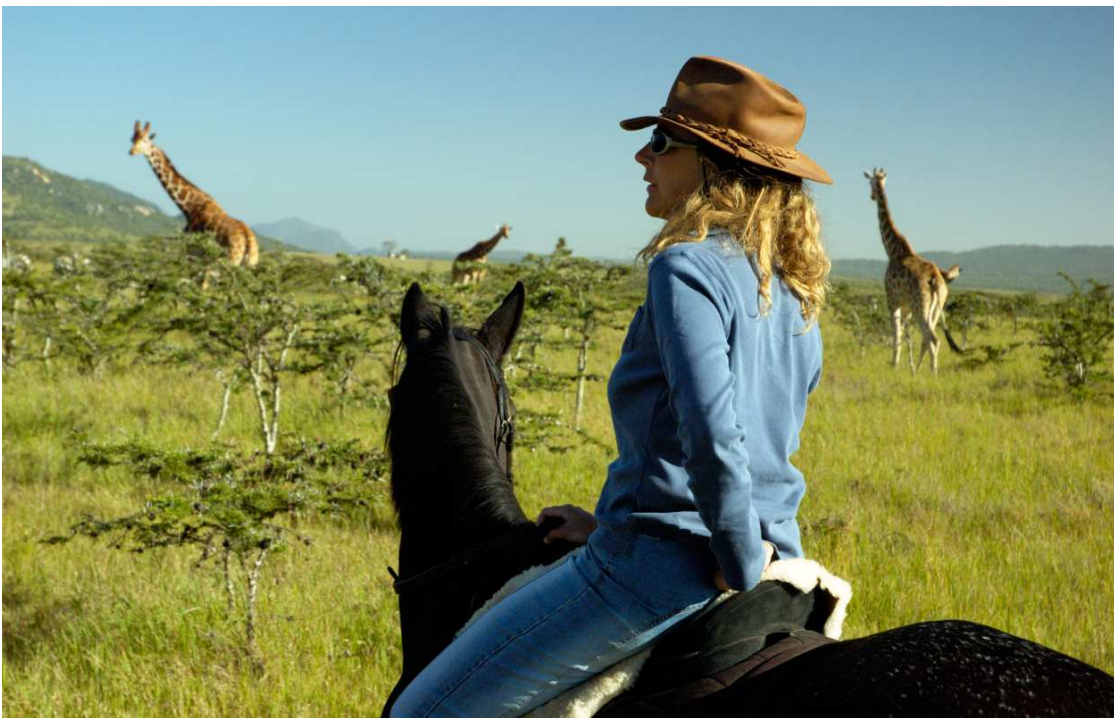
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NOTES: Check out time at Borana is usually 10 am and if you arrive Borana in the morning and leave late afternoon, there may be an extra charge for a day room (25% of the nightly cost) and for an extra day's Conservancy fee. There are also children's rooms which are less luxurious. The rate for these is USD 180 per person per night regardless of season. Children under 5 are free of charge.

Single rooms: If you are travelling alone you will need to book a single room unless there is someone prepared to share a twin room with you - please contact us to check.

Rates INCLUDE: all riding, shared game drives and walks, certain other activities, guiding and equipment, twin accommodation (single rooms if paying supplement or otherwise only if available), Conservancy fees, meals, drinks (except champagne and premium spirits / cellar wines) and laundry service.

Rates EXCLUDE: International flights to Nairobi and taxes, local departure taxes, transfers between Nairobi and the lodge (these are by private charter plane, scheduled safari link flight and / or by vehicle and are organised on request), personal medical / travel insurance (which you must have), visa fees, personal items such as telephone calls etc, some activities (eg visits to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (entry fee USD90 per adult, USD45 per child), cultural visits to a Masai Manyatta (USD20 per person), helicopter / light aircraft trips etc), massage / beauty therapy, exclusive use of vehicles (this is possible subject to availability) and any tips you may wish to leave.



Travel arrangements / Flights - The closest international airport to Borana is Nairobi, Jomo Kenyatta. Kenya Airways has direct overnight flights from London to Nairobi every day, departing London in the evening and arriving Nairobi early the next day and both Kenya Airways and British Airways have day flights every day, arriving Nairobi in the evening. Several other airlines such as Air France and KLM also have flights via Europe although we recommend a direct flight where possible to minimize the risk of delays and missed connections. Airfares vary with the airline and season but expect to pay around £550 to £700 per person for an economy return. **If you would like a quote for flights, advice or to book please contact us (our ATOL number for flight booking is ATOL 6213).** We can also book onward transfers, any extra nights accommodation you may require in Nairobi and additional activities or accommodation at the coast or at another safari lodge. There are lots of wonderful options and we would be delighted to advise.

Transfers between Nairobi and Borana are by private charter flight, by scheduled Safarilink flight and onward vehicle transfer or by private vehicle. Rates depend on the method of transfer, the number in your group and the dates. Please contact us ask for a quote. By way of example (**NB** charter rates vary from time to time and may increase with fuel costs etc.) a one way transfer between Nairobi and Borana in a Cessna 206 charter plane seating up to 4 guests is approx USD1350 for the plane. A smaller Cessna 182 may also be available at a lower cost. Scheduled Safarilink flights are approximately USD150 per person, each way, Nairobi Wilson / Lewa Downs including taxes.

General visa and health information (NB this is a brief outline - further information will be sent to you if you make a confirmed booking.)

Visas As of 1st March 2001, British Passport holders DO require a visa to visit Kenya as a tourist. The fee for a single entry visa, valid for 3 months from the date of issue, is currently £30. If bought on arrival in Kenya, generally an easy option, the fee is USD50 (cash only).

Health The Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London recommends that for travel to Kenya you are up to date with inoculations against **Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria and Hepatitis A**. It also recommends you are up to date with **Yellow Fever** (a booster is needed after 10 years) and that you carry a valid yellow fever certificate with you - you may be required to show this when entering Kenya, although generally only if entering from another tropical country, because of an episode of transmission of Yellow Fever in Kenya during the last five years. Rabies, Cholera and Typhoid may also be recommended in certain situations. You will also be advised to take **anti-Malaria** tablets - you should consult a health professional for further and more detailed advice about this.

(Updated 15/11/11)

