

SIRAI

HOUSE

FACT SHEET



info@siraireservations.com | www.siraihouse.com



Sirai House is a magnificent private home located in the Borana Conservancy at the foot of Mount Kenya, enjoying staggering views in every direction. Built by local craftsmen from indigenous materials, the house reflects the owners' love of architecture, design and art, and has been created with privacy and pure comfort in mind.

Available for exclusive use only, Sirai House has six sumptuous suites and affords guests all the facilities associated with a world-class resort, with the cocoon-like ambience and seclusion of a private home – set in a flourishing game conservancy. The private 35,000-acre reserve adjoins Lewa Conservancy and is home to an abundance of game, including the critically endangered rare black and white rhino, elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, serval, hyena, the rare Grevy's zebra and reticulated giraffe, buffalo and a host of antelope which wander freely between the two reserves.

Sirai has its own watering hole and hide for game viewing in situ, although game drives in a custom-made open-sided safari Land Rover, walking safaris and sumptuous bush picnics are available to guests throughout their stay, while riding safaris and helicopter excursions to several of Kenya's magnificent national parks and landmarks can be arranged direct from the house.

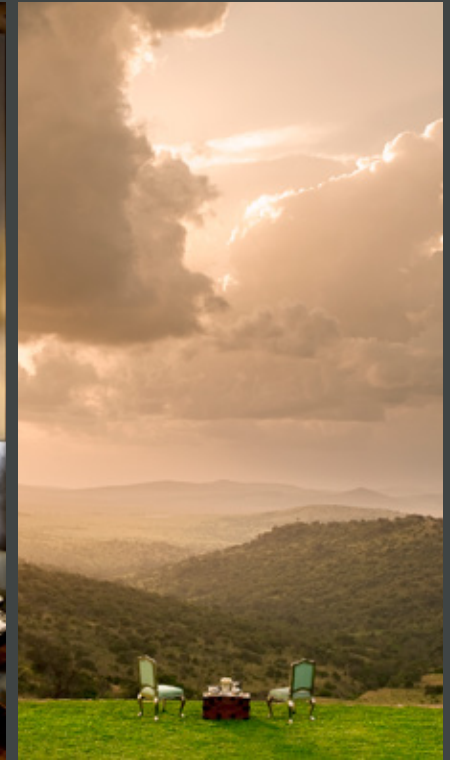
Amongst the recreational facilities on offer you'll find a fabulous pool area with heated infinity pool and loggia, a clay tennis court, croquet lawn, boules pitch, table tennis and billiards tables, secluded and peaceful yoga retreat and a luxurious spa retreat for moments of contemplation and relaxation. To stay connected to the outside world, there is a cinema with a vast array of new release and classic films, Apple TV and local cable TV, Sonos sound system in every room and a fibre optic communications system with wi-fi available throughout. Sirai is also home to a stable of beautiful horses and operates as a working stud.

Sirai House is served by team of 40 staff, including an accomplished chef who makes a point of understanding and anticipating guests' preferences, creating mouthwatering meals using ingredients sourced locally or grown in the house shamba (kitchen garden). The ethos underpinning the house is one of conservation, with a focus on supporting the local communities through employment and sustainable tourism.



KEY FACTS

- Sirai House is available for rental on an exclusive occupancy basis, available for booking all year round. The minimum stay is 3 nights.
- The house sleeps 12 guests in six suites spread across four cottages. The Master Suite has its own heated plunge pool. Suite 2 stands alone while Suites 3 and 4 are linked by a sitting room, as are Suites 5 and 6, making them ideal for families. Four of the rooms can be configured as a double or a twin.
- The private cellar houses over 3,000 bottles of wine and Champagne from many of the world's most prestigious vineyards, available at additional cost to complement the excellent house wines available to guests throughout their stay.
- The house has its own cinema, stocked with over 1,000 films and Apple TV
- There is a 20-metre heated infinity pool, clay tennis court, boules pitch, gym, running track, ping pong and billiard tables.
- Within the gardens, there is a boma and boules pitch, while croquet can be set up on the lawn in front of the main veranda.
- The house has a secluded Retreat with inside and outside whirlpools and a steam room; spa treatments can be arranged.
- The house has a newly built yoga retreat with yoga equipment and balance barre.
- The house enjoys a state-of-the-art communications and entertainment system, with a broadband speed of 50 mbps.
- Borana is home to the Big Five (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, rhino), cheetah, giraffe, Grevy's zebra, wildebeest, wild dog, hyaena, baboon, oryx, impala and eland (to name a few) plus diverse and abundant birdlife.
- Guests can enjoy game drives in 4x4 open-sided Land Rovers and walking safaris with experienced guides. Riding safaris and specialist birding guides can be arranged.
- Additional activities include flying safaris (helicopter, light aircraft or bi-plane), trout fishing; forest walkway and platform viewing at Ngare Ndare Forest; visits to the adjacent Lewa Downs Wildlife Conservancy; community enterprise and cultural Maasai village visits.
- Sirai has its very own private aircraft (Pilatus PC12 NG) that is available for charter.



SIRAI HOUSE LAYOUT



THE GUEST SUITES

The six guest suites are spread across the property, designed for privacy and seclusion. All the suites are connected to the main areas via easy pathways. Each suite has been individually decorated and styled but linked by a central theme of quality and sophisticated simplicity of their furnishings. All suites feature sophisticated interiors with very high quality furnishings, fireplaces and a state of the art AV system.

The guest suites and their bathrooms feel intimately connected with nature. The bathrooms feature separate showers, free standing tubs, twin hand basins and separate WCs. Three of the guest suites (Suites two, five and six) have an outdoor shower in addition to the one indoors.

Four of the suites can be configured either as double or twin rooms – the exceptions being Suites five and six. Our linen is 400-thread count Egyptian cotton, direct from the Nile Valley. Pillows are American-sized and available in both feather and hypo-allergenic options.

THE MASTER SUITE

The Master Suite features embroidered Ralph Lauren curtaining, neutral raw linen and suede upholstery. The king-sized bed sits high, while cow horn and sleek silver accessories complement its grandeur. The carpet is a reloaded patchwork Persian and the chandelier has been assembled from clay “leaves” to resemble a giant suspended pangolin, a reclusive scaly anteater. A rim-flow plunge pool forms part of the master suite bathroom. It is 4 metres x 4 metres, approximately 1.8 metres at the central deepest section.



SUITE 2

Suite 2 is also characterised by a neutral, raw, linen base, accented with eau de nil cotton. Focal points include a “dagnet” chair and a recycled woven rubber light fitting from Italy. A framed Yoruba cloak embroidered with shells from Nigeria dominates the space.



SUITES 3 AND 4

Suites 3 and 4 are the most urban in style. Their overall palette is dove grey infused with a splash of aubergine, offset with wildebeest rugs. Vintage photographs from the Royal Geographic Society add some fun. There is a sitting room with fold-out sleeper sofas linking the two bedrooms; making these suites ideal for families.



SUITES 5 AND 6

Suites 5 and 6 are the most ethnic in design and something of a departure from the taupe and linen combinations found in the others. Spicy and rustic, the suites are dominated by beautiful four-poster beds, accessorised with sheepskin, sisal, embroidered suede and big, framed cow skin aprons. A large chandelier made from Maasai gourds lights up the shared sitting room. The African-inspired sitting room connecting the two bedrooms is dramatic and striking, awash with natural light.



GETTING HERE

SIRAI AIR PILATUS PC12

Charter our very own Pilatus private aircraft for a comfortable and speedy trip. The PC12 operates comfortably up to 30,000 feet, putting it above most of the turbulent weather, and cruises at speeds up to 280 knots. Sirai Air can seat up to 8 passengers in sumptuous comfort on reclining leather armchairs. Sirai Air is operated by East African Air Charters. Sirai Air will fly from Nairobi to Borana Airstrip in approximately 35 minutes, this flight is followed by a 20-minute drive to Sirai House through the Borana Conservancy.

HELICOPTER

Sirai House has its own helicopter landing pad and can arrange helicopter transfers.

SCHEDULED AIR

There are daily scheduled flights by Safarilink and Air Kenya from Nairobi Wilson Airport to neighbouring Lewa Downs Conservancy from where guests are collected. The drive to Sirai House takes approximately an hour.

BY ROAD

Borana is a four-hour drive from Nairobi and a one-hour drive from the town of Nanyuki.



FOOD AND DRINK

What to eat and when to eat is entirely at guests' discretion – whether in the grandeur of the formal dining room, al fresco on one of the many verandas and terraces, in the poolside loggia or sumptuous picnics in the bush. Whatever guests choose, our pledge is to make each meal an experience of delight and wonder, underpinned by our commitment to self-sufficiency and sustainability. Nearly all the fruit and vegetables, that Head Chef George and his team use, are grown in our own shamba. Eggs are from our own chickens, milk and cream from our very own Jersey cows and beef is from the Borana cattle herds. The honey is from our own bees. Vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free diets can all easily be catered for.

Great care has been taken by the owners to select exquisite wines to accompany George's wonderful food, the extensive cellar houses more than three thousand fine wines from around the world that can be purchased at any time. Champagne, cocktails, vintage ports and digestifs, smoothies, juices and soft drinks on tap throughout every stay at Sirai.

ACTIVITIES AND AMENITIES

THE POOL HOUSE

The expansive Pool House comprises the main swimming pool, a 20m heated infinity pool with views stretching out to the game rich hills and plains, 1.8 metres at its deepest point with changing room and shower nearby, it also has a granite table tennis table. Towels are provided at the poolside, which is furnished with sun loungers and parasols. Children under the age of 12 must be supervised by a parent or guardian as the swimming pool does not have a lifeguard. Enjoy lunches and drinks poolside at the pool dining room and fully equipped bar.



THE GYM

The gym, located by the pool, consists of free weights, cardio vascular machines, punching bag and accessories. The equipment is not suitable for children under 12 years of age.

TENNIS COURT

The tennis court is located opposite the pool house overlooking Mount Kenya. Tennis rackets and balls are available for guests.



THE RETREAT

Sirai House has a beautiful retreat with indoor and outdoor whirlpools, steam room and treatment room. A range of spa treatments can be arranged at additional cost with our fully trained and qualified spa therapist.

THE YOGA RETREAT

The secluded yoga retreat is located at the far end of the property with stunning views over Borana Conservancy. With a range of equipment including yoga mats, resistance bands and stability balls and balance barre, you can enjoy practicing yoga and pilates on your own or a yoga instructor can be arranged.



RUNNING TRACK

Fitness enthusiasts can complement or substitute their gym workouts with a stint on the running track that surrounds the property. Two kilometres in circumference, it can be also be used by guests preferring a brisk walk or leisurely stroll.

BOULES PITCH

There is a boules pitch for guests to participate in this traditional ball game. Boules and cochonnets (jacks) are available and stored in the Club Room.

CROQUET

The lawn in front of the house's main veranda can be set up as a croquet pitch – hoops, balls and mallets are at the disposal of guests.

WATERHOLE AND HIDE

Sirai House has its own permanent watering hole, frequented by the wildlife of Borana, with a hide from where to unobtrusively observe the visiting game.

STARGAZING

Positioned on the terrace of the main veranda is a powerful automatic digital telescope (Meade LS8) which can be used to spot game by day, or stars and planets by night – simply tap in the name of the planet or constellation and the telescope will find it. Sirai House's altitude and remote hilltop location means there is no light pollution, just the huge African sky in all its glittering splendour.

CINEMA

The plush cinema has nine double 'love' seats, with a choice of viewing from over 1,000 classic and feature films on DVD or stream a film or series via Netflix on the Apple TV. There is also a local satellite bouquet so you won't miss sports or news.

THE LIBRARY

The Library houses more than 400 books, including the owners' extensive and precious Africana collection. Guests are welcome to read the books in the library, although we ask they are not removed from here. The Library has a television, computer and printer with internet access.



THE CELLAR

The wine cellar has been designed as a feature for one end of the dining room. It houses a carefully crafted collection of more than 3,000 fine wines and champagnes, stored on purpose-designed steel and hardwood racks, visible through the cellar's glass doors. In addition to the excellent selection of 'house' wines and champagnes – personally chosen by the owners and included in the tariff – guests can discover vintages from many of the world's most famous wine estates. (Premium Cellar wines and champagnes are not included in the tariff and are charged on consumption).

THE CLUB ROOM

The Club room is dominated by its full-sized Sir William Bentley billiard table equipped with cues, arches and balls. It is the perfect place for after dinner conversations and cognacs. Children under 12 years of age should be accompanied by an adult and unfortunately are not permitted to use the table.





SAFARI AND GAME DRIVES

Game drives in our customized 4x4 open sided Land Rovers are conducted by experienced guides for spectacular encounters with the Big Five and the many other species of wildlife, abundant birdlife, and the plant and ecosystems within the Borana Conservancy.

Walking safaris, led by the guides, are a great opportunity to appreciate the finer details of the bush, while allowing guests to experience the thrill of observing large game on foot. Regretfully, bush walks are not suitable for children under 12.

Sirai safari guides are all accredited members of KPSGA (the Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association), having passed the examinations set by the Association. Binoculars and wildlife reference books are available for guests during game drives and walks.

The duration and departure times of game drives and safari bush walks can be tailor-made to guest wishes, however early morning or late afternoon excursions usually deliver the best opportunities for game viewing.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

With our 6 brand new Giant Stance 29's, you'll own the trail! We offer mountain biking on the Borana Conservancy led by an experience guide with a backup vehicle nearby and always on hand.

THE STABLES

Sirai House operates as a stud dedicated to breeding Boerperd x Friesian and South African thoroughbred horses. The immaculate stables in the grounds, with nearby ménage and surrounding paddocks accommodate the resident Sirai horses and foals. Guests are welcome to visit the stables to see the horses and watch the mares with their foals in the paddocks.

THE STUDIO

Located at the stables, guests can enjoy a coffee or cognac in front of the fire and enjoy the view of the paddocks while browsing through our carefully chosen merchandise, sourced from across Africa.



OFFSITE ACTIVITIES

We can arrange many other activities for guests on request (at additional cost):

RIDING SAFARIS

Riding safaris can be arranged for experienced riders with knowledge of riding in open countryside, proficient at all paces (including rising trot) in English saddles and able to mount and dismount unaided and riding helmets must be worn at all times. Unfortunately, riding in the bush is not safe for novice riders and Sirai House reserves the right to decline the inclusion in riding safaris should a rider's ability not meet the required standards.



FOREST WALKWAY AND BLUE POOLS EXPERIENCE

The 5,300 hectare (13,000 acre) indigenous Ngare Ndare Forest lies on the northern foothills of Mount Kenya and Borana's southern boundary. This is a short 10-minute drive from Sirai House. There is a tree-top canopy walkway and a viewing platform; the perfect vantage points from which to bird watch and look for the forest elephants. The waterfalls and swimming ponds of the Blue Pools are ideal for a refreshing dip on a hot day. We can organise for a wonderful picnic lunch in this ancient forest.



FLYING SAFARIS

Given its geographical location, Sirai House is the ideal base from which to explore Mount Kenya and the northern frontier by helicopter, light aircraft or bi-plane.

TROUT FISHING

Fishing excursions can be arranged at Kisima Farm, Lake Rotundu or Lake Alice on Mount Kenya.

SCHOOL DAYS

All schools in Kenya are fee paying, a policy that poses a major challenge for local families without the means to pay. The Borana Conservancy, through the Borana Education Support Program, identifies children that most need financial assistance and raises monies for youngsters to attend five local primary schools, promoting the importance of conservation and the environment at the schools. Currently 30 youngsters are on full scholarships at the five primary schools in the area. A visit to one of the schools can be arranged.

CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Visits can be arranged to a nearby Maasai village where you will see how the Maasai women create their famous beadwork.

IT, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Sirai House has a state-of-the-art, highly robust communications system including a dedicated 50MB WiFi internet connection, with fibre-optic cabling throughout. Sirai has a backup internet line with a different provider and uplink in case of any failure with the main link. Each room has a telephone and WiFi, which extends to the pool area, retreat and yoga platform. There is a good mobile phone reception throughout.

The house is wired with a Sonos system in every room, with a huge library of music available or guests can connect their own devices and use one of the many music streaming sites.

The cinema is connected to AppleTV, DVD player and a local satellite bouquet. Each bedroom has a flat-screen television offering a host of television channels.

SECURITY

Borana Conservancy is sounded by a 3m high 7,000-volt electric fence and is patrolled 24/7 by a security team of 50, to protect the wildlife from poachers. Sirai House, set within its own gated 100-acre grounds is also protected by 3m electrified fencing, and has its own team of five Askari (guards), who patrol the grounds day and night and are in constant radio contact with the Borana security team.



CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Sirai House is one of six shareholders in the Borana Conservancy which collectively fund the operational costs of the conservancy to the tune of \$1million each year which is spent on the security and conservation of the flora, fauna and ecosystems, with all profits re-invested in the Conservancy.

Borana Conservancy is dedicated to the sustainable conservation of land and wildlife. It takes a holistic approach, committing tourism, ranching and other enterprises to building local livelihoods and enhancing ecosystem integrity.

Borana is home to an abundance of wildlife including many critically endangered species, most notably the healthy populations of black and white rhino which are flourishing here, thanks to the security and conservation measures in place.

Borana affords excellent game viewing – as well as both species of rhino. On a typical game drive you are likely to encounter herds of elephant, the endangered reticulated giraffe, the rare Grevy's zebra and the better-known Burchill's zebra. Borana's big cats include lion, leopard, cheetah, serval cat and civet; with spotted and striped hyena, wild dog, jackal and bat-eared foxes adding to the list of predators living here. There are large herds of buffalo and a host of antelope species which range from Africa's largest, the eland, to the smallest, the smallest, the dik dik – and many others in between such as the Greater kudu, oryx, impala, Grant's gazelle, gerenuk and hartebeest.

With more than 300 species of birds in Borana, there are too many to mention by name – but every game drive or walking safari will almost certainly be punctuated by flashes of colour as one or another of Borana's feathered residents swoops in to view. Specialist birding guides can be arranged.

Conservation is ingrained in the DNA of Sirai House; we feel a tremendous sense of responsibility to contribute to maintaining the wonderful environment we are so privileged to enjoy.



In addition to contributing to the funding the operational costs of the conservancy, The Borana Conservation Trust, established by Sirai House, has donated over \$400,000 over the past five years to various specific projects which aim to conserve of the region's flora and fauna, while supporting the local communities through education and health initiatives; these projects include:

- Habitat and wildlife conservation initiatives and research programmes
- Supporting the welfare of rangers in Laikipia, the Mara and the Chyulus who work on the frontline to protect against rhino and elephant poaching
- Additional rhino protection and conservation in the conservancy
- Installation of electric fencing to help elephant conservation, community and agriculture security
- Repairing three dams in the conservancy which are a lifeline for the wildlife
- The Borana Mobile Medical Clinic which provides vital medical assistance and advice to the more remote regions of Laikipia, treating and educating over 2,500 people each year
- Provision of an X-ray machine for the Nanyuki Cottage Hospital and other high-end equipment
- Supporting local community schools through the provision of learning materials
- Building the Sanga borehole to provide clean water to the local school
- Supporting the Borana Education Support programme for the people who work in and around Borana and provides financial assistance for them to gain secondary and tertiary education (there is no state funded education after primary school in Kenya)

