



WALKING WILD

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy & Il Ngwesi KENYA

Walking Wild is a walking safari company that operates across Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Il Ngwesi Conservancy. The camp is completely mobile, with the luggage, food, water and tented accommodation being carried by camels to remote areas of the wilderness. This safari is designed to allow people to get a more traditional, intimate and natural experience of the wildlife and environment in this part of Northern Kenya.



The safari is staffed and run by members of the local Maasai community. By walking with the Maasai, through their native land, the guests can get an appreciation of how these people have co-existed with this wild environment for generations. Kitonga (pictured above) is your expertly trained guide and host for the whole safari. Kitonga has been walking with the wildlife his entire life and grew up in the Il Ngwesi community and is a passionate, enthusiastic person who will make your time in the bush an experience not to forget.

ACCOMMODATION



- Our tents are dome shaped, shade netting with PVC floor.
- Each tent is 3 meters by 3 meters and 3.5 meters high.
- Each tent has its own flysheet in case of rain.
- Bedding is a bedroll on a camp bed, with sheets, blankets and feather pillows.
- Ablutions: two tented long-drops loos with hand washing basins; two canvas tented bucket showers: the water is heated on the fire and filled up each morning and evening.



EXPERIENCE

One of the main attractions of these safaris is that clients get the comparatively rare opportunity to walk through the natural habitat of some of the finest examples of African wildlife. Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is one of the few places where black and white rhino can still be seen roaming wild along with plentiful elephants, buffalo and big cats. The possibility offered by these safaris of viewing these animals while on foot is one of the most commonly given reasons for why people wish to walk in these conservancy areas.



This kind of holiday is classified as 'adventure tourism'. The environment is generally hot and dry, but due to the high altitude temperatures can drop considerably. For this reason walks are undertaken during the cooler early hours of the day and late in the afternoon but can still be very strenuous for those not used to the heat. The walking takes place in areas that are sometimes only accessible on foot and where large and potentially dangerous wildlife live. It is therefore imperative that when agents or tour operators offer this safari they make their clients fully aware of not just the safaris attractions but also of the physical demands, the style and remote location of the camps providing accommodation and of the environment in which the walks take place.



Walking Wild is staffed and guided by people with a lifetime of experience co-existing with the wildlife of this area. It is their knowledge of the environment, the specific locations where the walks take place and the behaviour of the animals that provides the greatest security for the clients. However, in case of emergencies a satellite phone is always carried and Kitonga is fully trained to carry the rifle.

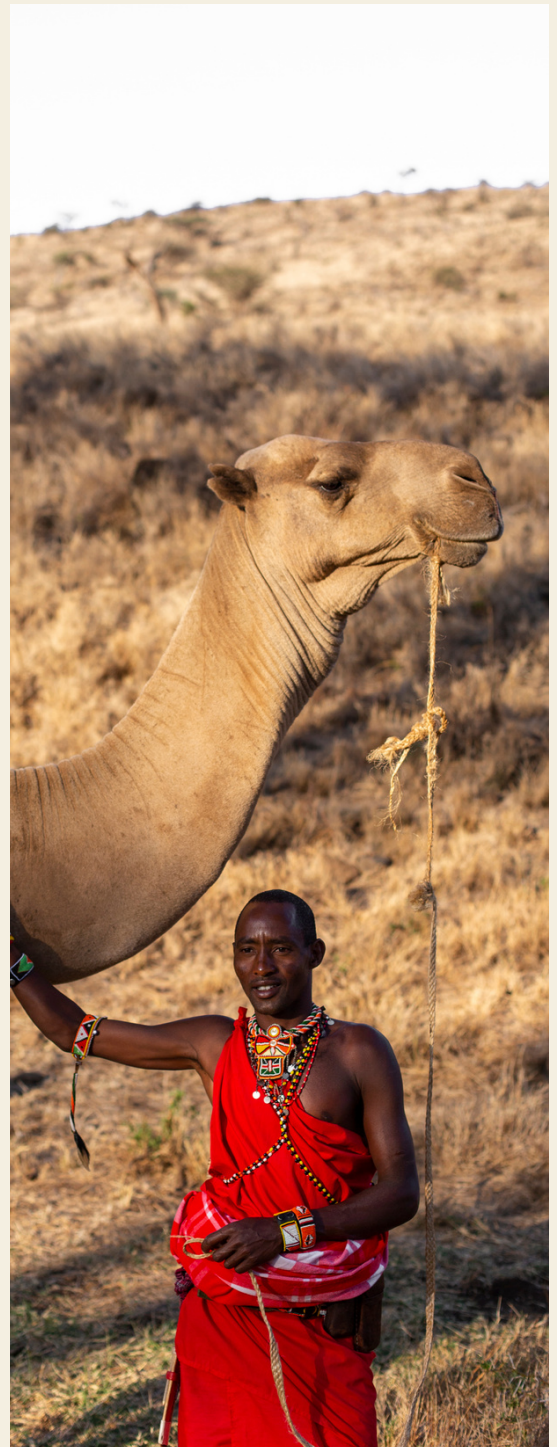
When clients arrive on the first day of a Walking Wild safari, they are given the essential guidelines on behaviour when encountering wildlife and what the guide will ask them to do if an encounter with wildlife should become potentially dangerous. Throughout the walk the guide – Kitonga will remind guests of these safety precautions. Nonetheless, however well a guide or wildlife expert may know any particular types of wild animal, or even individual animals and their behaviour pattern, there will always be instances when the animal behaves in an unpredictable or uncharacteristic way. It is never possible to be 100% certain of the outcome when encountering wildlife, therefore completely removing the risks from undertaking such safaris cannot always be achieved, only to reduce these risks to a minimum.



PACKING LIST

We recommend soft suitcases that can be zipped up, as they will be loaded on to the back of a camel for transportation, everything needs to be able to fit safely inside. Please bring a small backpack to carry your water bottle, sun cream and anything else that you would like to take with you during the day. Layers are recommended due to the varying weather and temperature. Please bring any required medication.

- Gym shoes or hiking boots: you will be walking for 4 to 5 hours a day, over a variety of terrains!
- 3 collared shirts: we recommend these to help with sun protection.
- 2 walking trousers/gym leggings/ shorts: you might walk through bushes and long grass, so be aware of branches catching on you. We also have ticks, but do not be alarmed if you pick one up, they are harmless!
- 4 pairs of socks :always good to have a spare pair in case of wet feet.
- Warm jumper / fleece: it is cold in the early mornings and once the sun goes down.
- A change of warm clothes: something comfortable to wear in the evening around camp.
- Jacket: you will be eating all meals outside.
- Lightweight / waterproof jacket: you never know, but highly recommended around the rainy months (April, May and November).
- Head torch: there will be solar lights in your tent and around camp, but these are very useful.
- Water bottle: stay hydrated, the guides will carry extra water to refill your bottles with.
- Power bank: there is no power and very limited signal, but lots of photo opportunities.
- Wide brim hat or baseball cap: you will be walking for long periods in the sun.
- Sunglasses: a string that ties them around your neck is great too.
- Sun cream: lots of it!
- Binoculars: for spotting the animals.
- Insect repellent: we have very few annoying insects, but it could be needed in the evenings.



WALKING WILD FAQ'S

WHO IS THIS TRIP FOR?

The adventurous! This safari is for those who want to experience the wilderness at its best. You need to be fit and able bodied, with a fun can-do attitude, looking for something a little bit different and on the wild side!

HOW MUCH DO WE WALK?

We try and do as much of the walking during the cooler hours of the day, between 07.00 – 12.00. After arriving at camp for lunch there is time to relax and explore again later in the afternoon.

HOW FAR IS IT?

It depends on where you are starting and which camp you are going to. It is an average of 8kms between each camp but depending on where the wildlife is we sometimes must alter our route.

WHAT IS THE TERRAIN LIKE?

The majority of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is rocky grassland. We venture into the valleys which tend to have slightly thicker bush and try to stick to animal paths which follow the contour of the valleys up and down. We sometimes have to pick our way through more challenging terrain if animals are in the way! Il Ngwesi is much lower in altitude from Lewa, by about 2000ft, which must be considered when walking between the two conservancies, although it is not a steep decline, it is a consistent one. There the terrain is much flatter and sandier, and it is much warmer in temperature.

ARE WE SAFE?

Yes! You walk with our trained guides, one of which will be carrying a rifle just in case of any wildlife conflict. Our guides have grown up in the bush, so know they wildlife very well.

At night you are enclosed in your dome tent, and the lights from lanterns and the campfire are enough to keep anything from coming close. We also have night guards on duty.

WHAT IS OUR CAMP LIKE?

It is very simple, but extremely comfortable, everything is loaded on to the camels for transportation. Each tent made from thick mosquito netting and is 3m by 3m, and 3.5m high. They an optional rain sheet just in case, and your bedding is a cosy bedroll on a camp bed. There are two bucket showers, with hot water from the fire, and 'short drop' loos. Dining is done outside, under a shady tree or the stars.



MORE INFORMATION

SEASON

Walking Wild has two seasons December – March and June – October. We do not run safaris in April, May & November due to possible rain.

MALARIA

We do recommend all clients take malaria medication.

FOOD & DRINK

Full board accommodation including delicious and healthy home-cooked meals, house-wines/spirits, beers & soft drinks. Dining is out under the stars. However, there is a tarpaulin in case of rain. Special dietary requirements can be accommodated with prior notice.

LAUNDRY

There is no laundry service during your safari.

HOW TO GET THERE

There are daily scheduled flights departing from Nairobi (Wilson Airport) to Lewa Downs airstrip. Kitonga will pick you up at the Lewa airstrip and drive a few miles before starting to walk.

CHILDREN POLICY

We have an age limit of 12 years old.

WALKING HOURS

Walking is done in the cool hours of the day from 7:30 – 12:00 usually four to five hours. Rest up during the heat of the day and another walk in the evening exploring the area around camp, sundowners, etc. This is a walking safari supported by camels, however camels can be ridden when the terrain or route allows.

RESERVATIONS

All reservations are made through Lewa Wilderness - reservations@lewawilderness.com

