



LARAGAI HOUSE

FACT FILE
BORANA CONSERVANCY



Owned by: George and Lucilla Stevenson

Location: Borana Conservancy, Kenya, situated 17 miles north of the equator and 6000 feet above sea level.

Laragai House is an extravagant private house ideal for a large group or a party in the African bush, with intimacy and luxury as a given. With complete exclusivity, the house is entirely at the guests' disposal and their stay impeccably managed. Ideal for families, large groups, weddings, anniversaries and parties.

ACCOMMODATION: Laragai house is set in magnificent splendour within a rich and colourful garden. A heated swimming pool with a deck overlooks a small dam, which attracts herds of elephant, buffalo and often prides of lion. Laragai has eight bedrooms, four luxurious double rooms and two twin rooms complete with spacious ensuite bathrooms, plus two children twin rooms sharing a bathroom. The two master bedrooms have fireplaces. The house has a dining room, bar, drawing room, pool house, TV room and a games room allowing guest to relax wherever they feel most comfortable.

CAPACITY: The house has a total capacity of 16 people and can only be booked on an exclusive basis.

GUIDE/PILOT ROOM: A double room is available in the manager's house.

CUISINE: Laragai House prides itself on its exceptional farm-to-table menus, based around locally sourced ingredients from adjacent Kabati Regenerative Farm, a 100-acre organic agriculture operation. Expect fresh fruit, cereal and traditional English breakfasts; tempting homemade light buffet lunches, and three-course dinners in the dining room or under the stars. The combination of the freshest fruit and vegetables with holistically raised, grass fed meat from the Conservancy result in delicious and healthy home style cuisine. All food preferences and allergies are catered for - please inform us about any dietary requirements prior to arrival.

LAY OF THE LAND: With rugged terrain and sweeping savannahs, Borana Conservancy, on which Laragai House sits, is the epitome of Africa. This is the perfect place for anyone who appreciates Africa, with panoramic views into the Northern Frontier District, across Borana Conservancy and up to Mount Kenya.

THE WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE: Borana Conservancy is host to over 50 species of mammals including some of the world's rarest animals, including black rhino, wild dog, leopard, cheetah and lion. For keen ornithologists, Borana is home to over 350 species of birds, including a variety of eagles, vultures and the stunningly bright superb starling. Borana also is host to a working cattle ranch.

Increasingly acknowledged as one of the most important areas for biodiversity in Kenya, the wildlife population densities in the Laikipia region rank only second to the internationally renowned Maasai Mara ecosystem. The diversity of large mammals is higher than in any other part in Kenya, hosting the highest populations of endangered species, black rhino (half of Kenya's total population) Grevy's zebra (70% of the world's population), reticulated giraffe, the only population of Lelwel hartebeest in the country and Africa's only expanding population of the rare wild dog.

ACTIVITIES: Night and day game drives, guided wildlife, birdlife and scenic walks, horse riding for both novice and experienced riders, sundowners, picnics and bush dinners are all available to guests. Optional extras include a visit to Kisima floriculture Project, cultural visits, scenic fishing trips to Mount Kenya, helicopter, fixed wing-aircraft or Waco bi-plane excursions, massage treatments (advance request only) and overnight safari trips on quad bikes (also by advance booking).

LODGE FACILITIES: Swimming pool, clay tennis court (racquets and balls provided), games room, satellite TV, large selection of DVDs, table-tennis room, croquet and boules. For the music lovers, there is a full size electronic keyboard wired into an amplifier. Laragai House also features a fabulous new gym equipped with cardio-machines, weights and yoga equipment for fitness addicts and yoga enthusiasts alike. Wi-Fi is available across the house.

LOCAL CULTURE: Many of the local tribes seen in the area, host Laragai House, with the famous Maasai as its prevalent. Maasai are well known cattle herders and Borana Conservancy works closely with these communities to ensure that tribal rights are respected, and careful cohabitation of wildlife and humans.

WATER: Water comes from a borehole; it is perfectly safe to shower and bathe in. For sustainability reasons, Laragai House tries to minimise plastic waste so whilst all of the drinking water is mineral water we decant it from large recyclable containers; bottled water is used only on activities. All hot water is powered by solar.

ELECTRICITY & COMMUNICATION: Laragai House runs on a generator from 6-10 am and 6 pm-midnight; however through batteries and an inverter system, power is available 24-hrs. Flashlights are provided in the rooms. There is mobile phone service and mobile Internet service. Wi-Fi is available throughout the house.

NEED TO KNOW

SEASONS: Laragai House is open all year round, except for November.

December - May is considered Kenya's summer and hot, sunny days can be expected. Temperatures can reach the high 20's and the low 30's, with little to no rain expected. **May - August** is Kenya's 'long rains'. The temperature can drop to mid-20's and rain is expected, usually in the afternoon, for about one-to-two hours. This time of year can be a beautiful time to visit, as the landscape is green and lush, with an abundance of animals. **August-December** is again a warm, dry period of the year, with the landscape looking beautiful after the long rains. 'The short rains' are expected in November, however this is when Laragai House is closed.

TRAVEL: Laragai House is easy to reach by road (approximately a four hour drive) or by air, with Lewa Downs airstrip located 50 minutes drive from Laragai House. Private charters are able to land at the Borana airstrip, a ten-minute drive from the house. The house also has a helicopter-landing pad.

MALARIA: Borana Conservancy is free from malaria.

LANGUAGES: All Laragai staff speak English and Kiswahili.

CHILDREN: Children under 5 years of age are free of charge, children's rates apply from 5-12 years old. The kitchen is happy to cater to the gentler palettes and earlier hours that often suit younger guests. For those who need to be in bed before their parents, a listening service is always on hand.

PARK FEES: Conservation fees are necessary when staying at Laragai House.

INCLUDED: Exclusive use of vehicle, full-board accommodation, all drinks except luxury spirits, special wines and champagne. Local airstrip transfers, laundry and activities as per above.

EXCLUDED: Luxury spirits, special wines and champagne, activities as per above.

CONSERVATION: Commerce is the key to conservation on Borana Conservancy. Over three generations, the Dyer family have dedicated extensive time, energy and finance to conservation. This has been achieved in a number of different ways, many of which you will see whilst visiting Laragai House and Borana Conservancy. Focusing on education, poverty alleviation and employment, health, habitat management and wildlife conservation, some of their many projects include:

The Laikipia Wildlife Forum: Whilst visiting Borana Conservancy you will now get the chance to see rhino after the recent relocation of 21 black rhinos, who are all settled in and calling the conservancy home.

The Seven Elephants Tree Nursery: This tree nursery produces more than 30,000 trees annually for reforestation efforts, stopping the noticeable effects of climate change, soil erosion and habitat for wildlife.

Borana Mobile clinic: This mobile clinic focuses on AIDS awareness, family planning and immunisation for babies and for families in the surrounding area.

Education Support Programme: Borana has its own education support programme, and many young minds have been put through primary, secondary and tertiary education due to this fund.

Bookings

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