

Environment is at the *Heart*

The Great Rift Valley, a dormant volcano, vital water tower, and a Critically Endangered forest antelope

Kenya



Granger's Camp Collection
S.A. LTD.



PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE



RHINO ARK



WILDERNESS
SAFARIS



Travel with Purpose

Celebrate 35 years of travelling with purpose

For the last 35 years – even when we started out in 1983 with just one old Land Rover – there has always been one overriding purpose to our ecotourism activities: to conserve and restore Africa's wilderness and wildlife.

This is something enshrined in our internal charter and vision statement and which undoubtedly beats in the heart of every single Wilderness Safaris employee.

So ... what better way to celebrate our 35th birthday than to indulge in 12 months of adventurous and impactful journeys to exciting destinations, accompanied by local experts and with unique, privileged behind-the-scenes access to conservation and community processes of Wilderness Safaris and our partners.

We considered the places we'd choose to be, when we'd choose to be there and with whom we would travel and came up with 12 itineraries with limited guest capacity that take in some truly spectacular destinations. The trips are fun, enlightening expeditions to interesting places that make a real difference to those same interesting places.

All proceeds will of course be channelled back to the conservation and community projects that we'll be exposed to.

We'd like to invite you to join us in 'travelling with purpose' on one of these 12 trips.
Each one is based on one or more of our 14 Reasons to Believe.



Purpose itinerary #2

11 – 15 June 2018

Kenya
6 spaces

Ages 17 years and older only.
Trip guaranteed to travel with minimum 4 guests.

Environment is at the Heart



June 2018 – Kenya’s Great Rift Valley

- A chance to see rare and elusive Critically Endangered **mountain bongo**.
- Active contribution to mountain bongo and Rift Valley **Water Tower**.
- Conservation through **cameratrapping** and community support.
- Camp out on forested dormant **volcano**.
- Explore the floor and lakes of the **Rift** for flamingos and big game.



Species and Range: The bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus*) is split into two subspecies. While the lowland bongo (*T. e. eurycerus*) is fairly widespread across the Congo Basin and further into west Africa, the mountain bongo (*T. e. isaaci*) occurs only in the mountains of Kenya’s Rift Valley. It is Critically Endangered with **only around 100 mature animals** remaining in fragmented forests that also happen to shelter the most important watersheds in the country making their conservation a double priority.



Itinerary



11 June: Fly Nairobi to Loldia, late afternoon lecture on bongo by Mike Prettejohn, overnight Loldia House.

12 June: Morning boat outing on Lake Naivasha, afternoon drive onto Eburu Volcano to check and reset cameratraps, overnight Eburu fly camp.

13 June: Morning forest walk, afternoon honey harvesting with Ndorobo tribesmen, overnight vigil in the bongo blind.

14 June: Morning forest walk and cameratrap check, return to Loldia House for lunch, afternoon boating to Crescent Island, overnight Loldia House.

15 June: Early morning outing to Lake Elmenteita for flamingo spectacle, return to Loldia for lunch and onward flight to Nairobi or Masai Mara.

Ts & Cs apply



Exploring the forest



Variable Sunbird



Giant Forest Hog



Steam vents



Mount Kenya

Aberdares

Lake Nakuru

Lake Elementaita

Mau Forests

Eburu Forest

Eburu Volcano

Loldia House

Lake Naivasha

Hell's Gate

Kenya

Nairobi

Masai Mara National Reserve





Meet your Hosts

Chris Roche – Wilderness Safaris

Chris has spent more than 20 years working in the ecotourism industry and over the past 10 years in particular has been intimately involved in the evolution of Wilderness Safaris out of the savannahs and deserts of southern Africa into more specialised habitat niches in the rainforests of central and east Africa. He is convinced that ecotourism can do more in helping conserve these ecosystems (and the services they provide to humanity – such as provision of water) and believes that mountain bongo and flagship species will be the mechanisms through which this will take place. Armed with a Master's degree in springbok ecology in South Africa's Karoo and a background in biological research and guiding, Chris is currently the Chief Marketing Officer of Wilderness Safaris but does his best to spend time in the field exploring new opportunities for the company.



Dominic Grammaticas – Governors' Camp Collection

Dominic, a native of Kenya, grew up spending time in the pristine Masai Mara; first on long summer holidays, then later working and growing up alongside Governors' Camp and its Masai community neighbours. Governors' Camp, the first permanent tented camp inside the Masai Mara, was the brainchild of Dominic's father Aris. Before ecotourism was even really defined, Aris understood the important role responsible tourism played in the conservation of wildlife areas, beliefs he passed on to his children. For Dominic this, and a formative life in the wilderness, led to studying a degree in Biological Science at the University of Edinburgh. Armed with this base he later moved into a successful career in finance in both the UK and Hong Kong.



By 1999 though, the inescapable call of Africa became too loud, and Dom returned home, taking over the reins of the family business as Managing Director. Under Dominic's leadership, involvement in wildlife conservation and community support initiatives has been integrated even deeper into the fabric of Governors' Camp. Amongst its achievements, some 4 000 students in Kenya and Rwanda are being taught in classrooms built and equipped by Governors' Camp, its community trust partners, and with the key support of its guests. The opportunity to play a pivotal role in the future of Kenya's bongo population speaks to the very core of what Governors' Camp is all about.

Meet your Experts

Donna Sheppard – Rhino Ark / Calgary Zoo

Donna has been with the Conservation and Research Department of the Calgary Zoo, Canada, since 1999. After some years seconded to projects in Guyana, South America, her time has mostly been spent in Africa. From 2004 for 2014, for example, she was based in Ghana developing community-based conservation projects on hippo, western sitatunga and West African manatee. At the same time, she was able to contribute to community forestry programmes in Liberia.

For the last three years Donna has been based in Kenya, seconded to Rhino Ark and its work on water towers and endangered species. It is a return of sorts, since Donna's Master's degree looked at red-tailed monkey ecology in neighbouring Kenya.



Solomon Muriithi – Bongo Surveillance Project

Born just outside the Eburu Forest in Ndabibi village, Solomon has known the dormant volcano his entire life. He started with the Bongo Surveillance Project in 2004 and since then has worked on tracking and cameratrapping this threatened population. Before that however, he was a poacher and charcoal maker...

Today, he estimates there to be between 10 and 13 animals only, with the reasons for their decline being human encroachment and resultant poaching and deforestation for charcoal production. Like Solomon, things have changed though. Fencing has reduced illegal utilisation of the forest, and community awareness projects (in which Solomon himself is involved) have changed local perceptions about the importance of the bongo and its forest habitat. According to Solomon, tourism is the last piece of the puzzle and will help substantially with the inevitable financial hurdles to conservation.



Partners

Bongo Surveillance Project

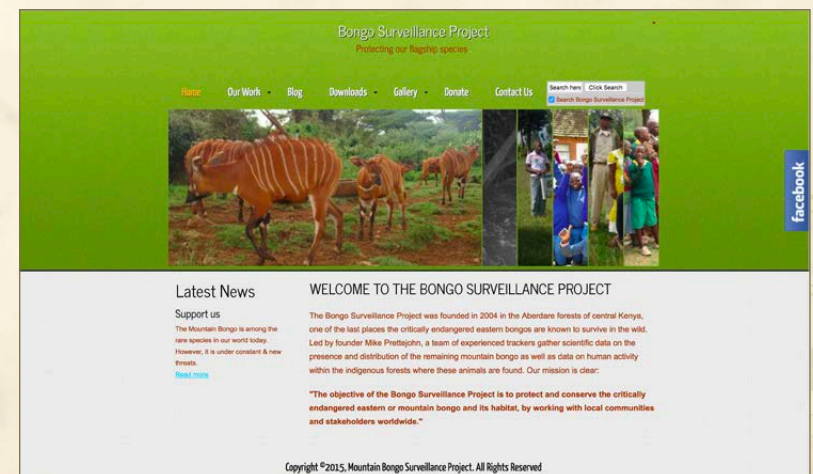
The objective of the Bongo Surveillance Project is to protect and conserve the Critically Endangered eastern or mountain bongo and its habitat, by working with local communities and stakeholders worldwide. The project was founded in 2004 by Mike Prettejohn, with an initial focus on the Aberdares National Park, the last known stronghold of the mountain bongo. For the past 15 years, Mike has led a team of experienced trackers in gathering scientific data on the presence and distribution of the remaining mountain bongo, first in the Aberdares and then later on Mount Kenya, before moving further afield to confirm the species' continued perilous existence in Eburu and the Mau Forests. He and his team have discovered previously-unknown populations and have championed the continued survival of this species in the wild in Kenya.

It is no exaggeration to say that this small group of committed Kenyans (and their supporters such as the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Kenya Forestry Service) can consider themselves responsible for bringing the plight of the mountain bongo into the public consciousness.



PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

<http://www.mountainbongo.org/>



Partners

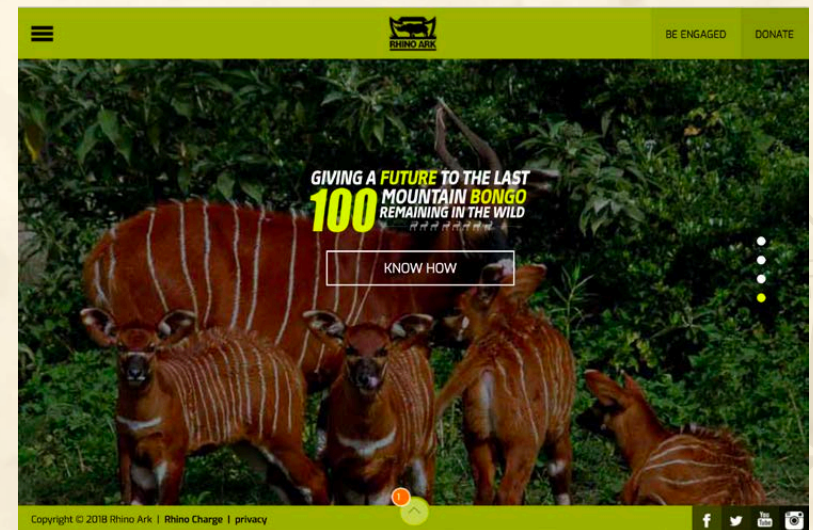
Rhino Ark

Founded in 1988 with the explicit aim of staunching the rampant poaching of black rhino in the Aberdares ecosystem, Rhino Ark immediately identified that ‘good fences make good neighbours’ and that separating rural people from the inhabitants of the national park was an urgent priority. Its initial fundraising therefore focused on building an electrified fence around the Aberdares, thus preventing human-wildlife conflict like crop raiding by elephants, while simultaneously making illegal incursions into the park more challenging.

This success and the strong partnerships that resulted with the neighbouring communities helped form the Rhino Ark philosophy of “humans in harmony with habitat and wildlife.” This is an approach that has subsequently been extended to Kenya’s other montane forest ecosystems and ‘water towers’ like Mount Kenya and Eburu. Eburu – vulnerable to deforestation through illegal charcoal production – was encircled with fencing in November 2014 and this has allowed Rhino Ark to fully engage with the rural communities here, beginning the formation of effective partnerships around education and awareness as well as livelihood diversification.



<http://rhinoark.org/home/>



Beneficiary

Rhino Ark – Eburu programmes

Aside from the obvious commercial and awareness benefits of visiting a largely unknown destination (Eburu is hardly known, even in Kenya, and receives only a handful of visitors a year) and paying for access and services rendered, the beneficiary of proceeds generated by this trip is Rhino Ark and its local Eburu programmes – all targeted at the protection of the ecosystem and species like its flagship, the mountain bongo.

None of the organisations involved – Governors' Camp Collection or Wilderness Safaris – will receive payment or mark-up on this journey. Instead, any and all proceeds will be channelled to Rhino Ark for use in the urgent priorities of fence patrolling and maintenance, community engagement and education (e.g. Eburu Rafiki) and livelihood diversification (e.g. the Hifadhi Farmers' Cooperative).





Seychelles

*Travel
with Purpose*

