

New
KENYA
Natural Wonders
2019

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


WILDERNESS
SAFARIS

THE LUXURY OF PURPOSE

Introducing Kenya Natural Wonders, one of a portfolio of eight life-changing, ‘purposeful’ journeys crafted to offer guests access to unique and privileged, behind-the-scenes conservation and community projects run by ourselves and our partners.

On this itinerary we invite you to join us in The Great Rift Valley to explore a dormant volcano, investigate a life-giving water tower, and observe a Critically Endangered forest antelope, the mountain bongo.

All funds raised from this itinerary are directly channelled to Kenya’s Bongo Surveillance Project.





25 – 29 June 2019

Kenya

Great Rift Valley

Ages 17 years and older only.

Trip guaranteed to travel with minimum 4 guests.

KENYA NATURAL WONDERS



25 – 29 June 2019

On this journey...

- You have the opportunity to see rare and elusive Critically Endangered mountain bongo.
- Make an active contribution to mountain bongo and Rift Valley water tower conservation through camera-trapping and fence patrols.
- Camp out on a forested, dormant volcano.



ABOUT THE PURPOSE: 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

- 25 June Fly Nairobi to Loldia, late afternoon lecture on bongo by Mike Prettejohn, overnight Loldia House.
- 26 June Morning boat outing on Lake Naivasha, afternoon drive onto Eburu Volcano to check and reset cameratraps, overnight Eburu fly camp.
- 27 June Morning forest walk, afternoon honey harvesting with Ndorobo tribesmen, overnight vigil in the bongo blind.
- 28 June Morning forest walk and cameratrap check, return to Loldia House for lunch, afternoon boating to Crescent Island, overnight Loldia House.
- 29 June Early morning outing to Lake Elementaita for flamingo spectacle and a bush breakfast, return to Loldia for a leisurely lunch and onward flight to Nairobi or Masai Mara.

Ts & Cs apply



Rates

4 Guests \$5,715.00 per person sharing

Single Supplement \$3,019.00

Exclusions:

- International long-haul flights to and from Nairobi.
- Meals not specified.
- All drinks
- Items of a personal nature i.e. telephone calls, laundry, mini-bar etc.
- Cancellation, baggage and medical insurance.
- Staff gratuities.
- Any new government taxes, levies, fuel or industry increases which are beyond our control.
- Visa fees – where relevant.
- Departure taxes, unless specified.



Lake Nakuru

Lake Elementaita

Mau Forests

Aberdares

Mount Kenya

Eburu Forest
Eburu Volcano

Loldia House

Lake Naivasha

Hell's Gate

Kenya

Nairobi

Masai Mara National Reserve





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 lived in Kenya, seconded to Rhino Ark and its work on water towers and specifically the endangered Mountain Bongo species. Alongside Michael Prettejohn, founder of the Bongo Surveillance Project, Donna has overseen surveillance and censuses of Mountain Bongo habitat, ranger training, and educational programs focussing on schools and communities neighbouring the water towers.



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/>

A screenshot of the Bongo Surveillance Project website. The header is green with the text "Bongo Surveillance Project" and "Protecting our flagship species" below it. A navigation menu includes "Home", "Our Work", "Blog", "Downloads", "Gallery", "Donate", and "Contact Us". There is a search bar and a Facebook link. The main content area features a large photo of bongos in a forest. Below the photo, there is a "Latest News" section and a "WELCOME TO THE BONGO SURVEILLANCE PROJECT" section. The footer contains the copyright notice: "Copyright ©2015, Mountain Bongo Surveillance Project. All Rights Reserved".

Partners

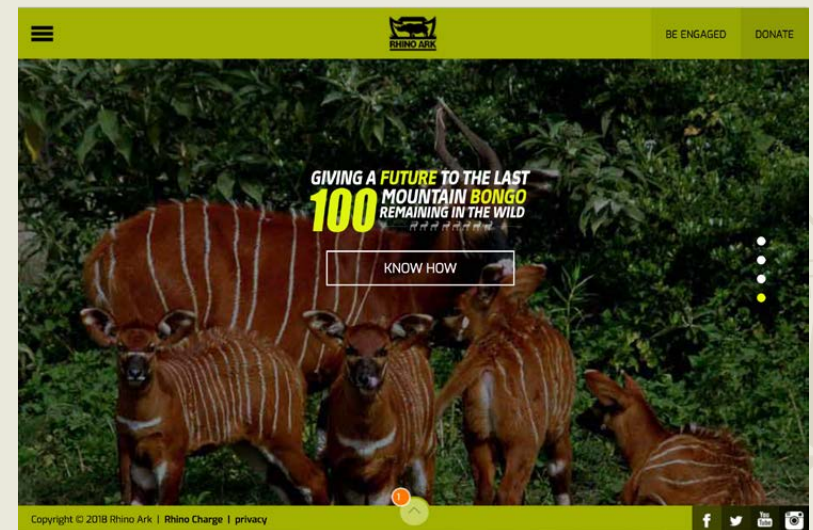
Rhino Ark

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).



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Seychelles

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