

# ACCOMMODATION

Stay in the Wild, explore, create memories

## CAMPING:

Meru National Park has both special and public campsites available for use by visitors.

## PUBLIC CAMPSITE:

### BWATHERONGI

For this category, standard amenities are provided; water, toilet/bathroom and kitchen area. Public campsites do not require prior booking. This campsite has a capacity of 150 pax.

## SPECIAL CAMPSITES:

Island Camp, Kambi Baridi, Golo 1, Golo 2, Fisi, Ndovu, Rojawero, Chuma, Muguga, Kenmare, Mamba, Kithanga, Princess, Makutano and Kanjoo. All the special campsites have a capacity ranging between 150-300 pax depending on the one the visitor chooses.

For this category, only camping grounds are provided. The visitor has to reserve the special campsite well in advance for exclusive use. Visitors have to bring with them a source of fire and kitchen utensils.

\* Reservation of bandas/guesthouses and special campsites is done through the park warden or through KWS headquarters reservations desk; reservations@kws.go.ke

\* Prevailing camping rates apply per person per day for both special and public campsites including other park charges.

**KWS HOSTEL** – The hostel is a 32 pax accommodation facility with running water, electricity and a kitchen.

## PRIVATELY OWNED LODGES & HOTELS

- Elsa's Kopje Eco-lodge
  - Leopard Rock Lodge
  - Rhino River Porini Camp - Located outside the park opposite Rhino Sanctuary Management Gate.
  - Ikweta Safari Camp - Located outside the park, 800M from the Main Gate
  - Murera Springs Lodge
- Visitors have to contact their management directly.

# PARK RULES

1 Adhere to Park entry and exit times. Unless you are an overnight visitor, always exit the park before dusk. Park gates open at 6:00 am and close at 6:00 pm.

2 General rules of the road apply. Car hooting and driving under the influence of alcohol is strictly prohibited.

3 Move slowly and quietly but remember all animals are wild and can react dangerously if startled.



All KWS parks, reserves and sanctuaries are SINGLE USE PLASTIC FREE ZONES.

## MERU NATIONAL PARK

Park Contact: +254 786 348 875

Email: merupark@kws.go.ke or mca@kws.go.ke

Toll Free Number: 0800597000

Kenya Wildlife Service @kwskenya kenyawildlifeservice kws.go.ke

# PARK FEES

|               | Citizen | Residents | Non-Residents |
|---------------|---------|-----------|---------------|
|               | KSH     | KSH       | USD\$         |
| Adult         | 250     | 250       | 30            |
| Child/Student | 200     | 200       | 20            |

Pay for your entry to any of our Parks or Reserves via:



## SPECIAL SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

Security/Guided tour per guide:

- Ksh. 1,720 – up to 4 hours
- Ksh. 3,015 – Over 4 hours

## VEHICLE CHARGES PER DAY



## WHAT TO TAKE WITH YOU

Whether camping or just visiting for a day trip, visitors are advised to carry with them the following; personal effects, drinking water, food, camping equipment if the visitor intends to stay overnight. Also important are; Camera, binoculars, sunscreen, insect repellent, first aid kit, sunglasses, appropriate hiking/mountaineering gear and reserve car fuel if intending to be in the park longer.



## HOW TO GET THERE

### By road:

From Nairobi (348 KM) via Nyeri-Nanyuki-Meru or via Embu all-weather roads.

From Maua to Murera Gate (35 KM) and 348 km from Nairobi.

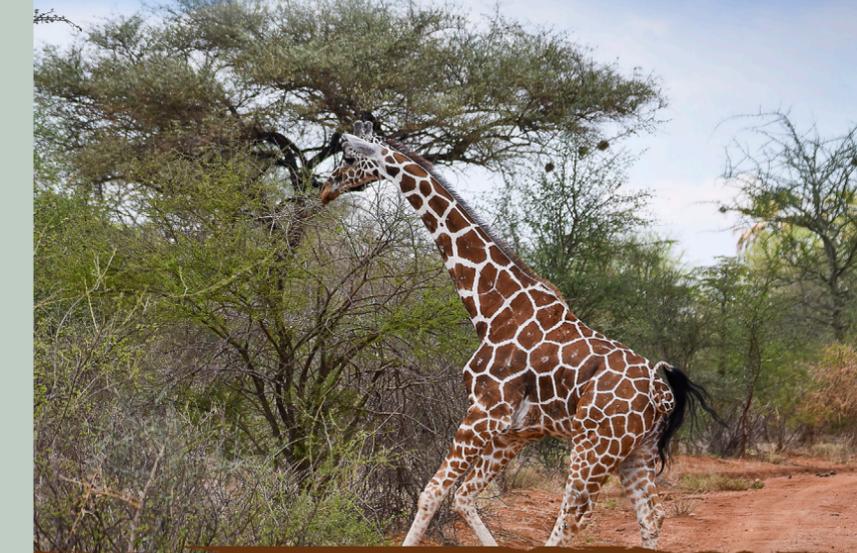
From Embu via Ura Gate (161 KM) and 290 km from Nairobi



By Air: Main airstrip at Kinna, Mulika next to Meru Mulika Lodge and Mughwongo Airstrip next to Elsa's Kopje Eco-lodge



# MERU NATIONAL PARK



Complete Wilderness

# INTRODUCTION

Remote, rugged and prominently unspoilt; Meru National Park sits on an 870 sq.km area. Less visited, the park is largely set in the wilderness yet strikingly beautiful. Few places and spaces compare to this great spectacle.

The park borders Bisanadi National Reserve to the North East and Kora National Park on the South East.

Meru National Park prides herself in the history of the coming together of Joy Adamson's book "Born Free". The script bases itself on the Adamson's life and research on lions and cheetahs. The couple, George and Joy Adamson are best known through the movie Born Free and a best-seller book with the same title, based on a true story of Elsa the Lioness, an orphaned lioness cub they had raised and later released into the wild. Elsa's Grave preserved in the Park along Ura River is a huge attraction in the park.

## THE BORN FREE FOUNDATION STORY:

In 1966, Virginia McKenna OBE and Bill Travers MBE starred in the classic wildlife film Born Free, as Joy and George Adamson. In 1984, Virginia, Bill and their eldest son Will Travers, launched Zoo Check – the charity that has evolved into Born Free Foundation Worldwide. Although Born Free has supported a number of projects in Kenya since 1987, Born Free Kenya was formally established in 2003 to protect wild animals while working with Government agencies and communities to promote coexistence and to ensure a safe and thriving future for its magnificent wildlife.

The Born Free's "Pride of Meru" team has been collaborating with and supporting Kenya Wildlife Service since 2014 in lion conservation work, animal rescues, conservation education awareness and outreaches to communities and schools. Follow @bornfreekenya on Facebook for updates on their partnership efforts.

# KEY ATTRACTIONS & ACTIVITIES

As aforementioned, the lions of Meru patrolling this spectacular wilderness are a great attraction into the park, tied to the story of George, Joy Adamson and the setting of the movie, and book Born Free. Great rewards await avid bird watchers, as the bird life is exceptionally diverse with over 400 bird species in the park. The park teems with a variety of wildlife species including elephant, Grevy's zebra, lion, cheetah, leopard, hartebeest, hippo, buffalo and the reticulated giraffe among others. Meru hosts a rhino sanctuary that is home to the endangered black and white rhino species. Critically endangered, the rhinos are under a twenty four hour surveillance. The sanctuary offers one of the best rhino viewing experiences in the wild.

Visitors can enjoy game viewing, camping, picnicking, hiking and swimming in the swimming pool located next to the Bwatherongi (Kinna) bandas (cottages). The rich culture of the Ameru, Borana and Tharaka communities in the cultural villages is also an activity visitors can savor. Ameru culture at Murera Gate, which is the park main gate, Borana culture at Bisanadi gate, and Tharaka culture at Ura gate.

Other attractions include; River Rojeweru's Hippo pool and viewpoints, River Bwatherongi /Kubai Road Hippo pool, River Tana, Nyambene Ranges view, Adamson's Falls and Rapids, Elsa's Grave, Pippa's Grave, Mwariama Mau Mau Baobab hideout, Mt. Kenya view, The Equator, Inselbergs and Anthills, Kopjes, Swamps and natural springs giving rise to Rivers Murera and Mulika in the park.



# ACCOMMODATION *Stay in the Wild, explore, create memories*

Set in the quietude of nature, KWS offers a modest and wide range of self-catering accommodation options targeting the budget traveler. Whether you are looking to get away from the exhausting grind of life, a break away from the hustle and bustle of the city right into the serenity of bush, or you just long to soak in your senses and reconnect with nature, KWS bandas and guesthouses offer the perfect ambience. Meru National Park offers the following;

## MERU NATIONAL PARK OFFERS THE FOLLOWING:

### MERU/MURERA GUEST HOUSE:

**Accommodation;** 1unit, 5pax  
**Amenities;** Gas cooker, refrigerator and kitchen utensils. Lighting is by electricity, beddings, mosquito nets, towels and toiletries are available. A house caretaker is available.  
**Rates;** Citizens & Residents: Ksh.8, 000  
Non-Residents: US\$150

### KINNA GUEST HOUSE:

**Accommodation;** 1unit, 10Pax  
Contains 5 bedrooms and a separate annex for driver. Two of the bedrooms have a double bed each with ensuite bathrooms. Two smaller bedrooms have single beds each. The fifth bedroom has a bathroom shared with the other smaller bedrooms. The annex has its own bathroom.  
**Amenities;** A generator is provided from 6pm to 10pm. Solar lighting is also provided. A gas cooker, fridge and cooking utensils are provided.  
**Rates;** Citizens & Residents: Ksh. 18,000  
Non-Residents: US\$250

### BWATHERONGI (BANDAS) COTTAGES

**Accommodation;** 4units, 2pax per unit  
Three of the cottages have single bedroom with two single beds while the 4th cottage has two bedrooms.  
**Amenities;** Bathroom, beddings, mosquito nets, toiletries. No kitchen equipment are provided and therefore, visitors are therefore advised to carry their own and gas burner. An outdoor cooking area is provided, lighting is by lanterns. A barbeque grill is provided.  
**Rates;** Citizens & Residents: Ksh.3, 500 Per unit  
Non-Residents: US\$80 Per unit

### BWATHERONGI (BANDA) COTTAGE (BIG)

**Accommodation;** 1unit, 4pax  
**Amenities;** Bathroom, beddings are provided. No kitchen equipment are provided. Visitors are therefore advised to carry their own and gas burner. An outdoor cooking area is provided. Lighting is by lanterns and a barbeque grill is provided.  
**Rates;** Citizens & Residents: Ksh.7, 000  
Non-Residents: US\$160

### MURERA (BANDAS) COTTAGES

**Accommodation;** 6units, 2pax per unit  
Each cottage has two bedrooms each. Each bedroom has one double and one single bed. One cottage has one queen bed.  
**Amenities;** No kitchen equipment are provided and therefore visitors are advised to carry their own. An open kitchen area is available outside. Alternatively, a kitchen is available at the nearby student's hostel. Electricity and barbeque grill are provided.  
**Rates;** Citizens & Residents: Ksh.3, 600 per unit per night  
Non-Residents: US\$80

### MURERA (BANDAS) COTTAGE (WITH TV)

**Accommodation;** 2units, 2pax per unit  
**Amenities;** No kitchen equipment are provided and therefore visitors are advised to carry their own. An open kitchen area is available outside. Alternatively, a kitchen is available at the nearby student's hostel. Lighting is by electricity.  
**Rates;** Citizens&Residents: Ksh.4, 000 per unit  
Non-Residents: US\$80

