



**THE CRADLE**  

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**Lodwar-Turkana**

## Explore The Cradle Tented Camp And Lodge

The Cradle Tented Camp and Lodge, is situated in Lodwar, Turkana County which is in the North Western part of Kenya. The facility has 30 luxury rooms of which 16 are luxury tents while 14 are in block chic.

We have 3 conference facilities which can take up to 600 pax sitting in theatre style while other sitting arrangements can be done as per your specifications'.

Other amenities include - a swimming pool, expansive space that can host different kinds of events like team building, playground for kids, and camp site among others.

We offer the following services at very competitive rates;

1. Accommodation in Luxury tents and Executive rooms.
2. Conferencing and Banqueting services.
3. Team building.
4. Events Management.
5. Airport Transfers.
6. Outside catering services.
7. Camp Site Services.
8. Lake Turkana excursions including a visit to the Central Island National Park.
9. Cultural Tourism excursions.
10. Sport Fishing in Lake Turkana.
11. Archaeological excursions.of events like team building, playground for kids, and camp site among others.

*Our lodge experience is built on a defining level of service and commitment that stems from our core value, we call it our Signature Service. From the moment you arrive in our lodge, our team is there to support you and guide you in every step of your journey. From beginning to end, we take care of all the details, so you can focus on what's really important: **Being present, comfortable and connected.***



# OVERVIEW

## General Description

The Cradle Tented Camp and Lodge is located in Lodwar, Turkana County. It is the only luxury tented camp and lodge in that region. An excellent and ideal place to detach your mind from your daily commitments in an atmosphere of pure bliss. The ambience and serenity at the Cradle creates a luxurious atmosphere that leaves a nostalgic effect to every visitor. The Cradle's vast ground and amenities makes it an exclusive destination for all types of events, conferences and meetings. It's an Oasis in the desert.

## Rooms

The Cradle has 30 rooms. 15 are luxury tents while 14 Executive rooms and 1 Presidential Suite all fitted with state of the art furniture and modern equipments.



## Location

The Cradle is located in Lodwar town, Turkana County. It's privileged to be in the most refined areas of the town overlooking Lodwar hills. It is 20 minutes' drive from the busy Lodwar airstrip and 15 minutes away from the famous Kapenguria 6 detention camp.



## Restaurant

The Cradle has a fascinating restaurant overlooking its beautiful swimming pool. The attentive and caring staff at the restaurant offer quality services and are always there to guide you on the varieties of items in the menu, be it traditional or authentic continental cuisines.



## Bar

The Cradle's modern sports bar is located in the cherished lobby of the Hotel. Guests are free to enjoy soothing music with elegant drinks and gourmet every evening. The bar also provides an elongated terrace giving ample room for guests to experience unique cocktails made by our professional Barman.

## Meetings and Conferences

The Cradle's facilities have the ideal setting for business lunches, meetings, special events and conferences. The hotel 3 conference halls have natural light, air condition, independent access from the hotel and can host up to 800 delegates seated in theatre style. The facilities also provides ample space in front of the main entrance which enables the delegates to enjoy their coffee breaks and dining functions thus ensuring complete.



## Banqueting

Our meeting rooms allow our F & B staff to create all kind of events: weddings, receptions, Gala dinners, cocktails by the pool, theme parties, after dinner and many other solutions for receptions, private events and special occasions. To complete the offer, a fully dedicated Staff is always on standby to ensure your event is professionally and uniquely managed.

## Swimming Pool

After a long day of traveling or sightseeing, field work or a whole day conference, there's nothing like a refreshing dip in the pool. We have a swimming pool which is 16 m by 14 m long overlooking the restaurant. Changing rooms are nearby with an external shower which is used after swimming. The cool water comes in handy especially during the hot afternoon in Lodwar.



**Turkana County** is in the former Rift Valley Province of Kenya. It is the second largest, by land area, (after Marsabit County) and also the north western most county in Kenya. It is bordered by the countries of Uganda to the west; South Sudan and Ethiopia, including the disputed Ilemi Triangle, to the north and northeast; and Lake Turkana to the east. To the south and east, neighbouring counties in Kenya are West Pokot, Baringo and Samburu Counties, while Marsabit County is located on the opposite (i.e. eastern) shore of Lake Turkana.



For those who are fascinated by the fundamental questions of who we are and where we come from, there is no better place to follow the traces of our ancestors. Some of the most significant archaeological findings of pre- and early manhood have been made here, and Turkana Land righteously claims the title Cradle of Mankind. This is the place where all humans stem from, so: **Welcome back home!**

In 1984, the world famous Turkana boy was found in Nariokotome, a 1.5 million year old, near complete Homo erectus skeleton. Homo erectus is generally regarded as a direct ancestor of Homo sapiens sapiens – present day humans. Since recently, a monument and a brass replica of the skeleton can be visited at the finding site. The oldest ever traced stone tools with an estimated age of 3.5 million years, is just another one of the many significant discoveries in Turkana which made it to the international headlines.

The first to recognize Turkana Land's historic importance was the world famous paleoanthropologist, Dr. Richard Leakey who established the Turkana Basin Institute (TBI), a research centre and field school that puts Turkana Land on the map in terms of archaeology and natural sciences. Tourists can pay day visits to the TBI's facilities, and do a guided walk to a nearby finding site where they are explained the essentials of detecting fossils – a thrilling insight into archaeology.

There are also impressive historic sites of the more recent past, such as the Namorutunga standing stones near Kalokol, an ancient site from about 2,000 years ago that is still revered as an important ceremonial site by the local Turkana people today. In southern Turkana, the Lokori Standing Stones mark one of the most impressive prehistoric remnants in the County. An ensemble of standing stones circles as well as mysterious rock art engravings mark a location of great importance to our ancestors. There are uncounted rock art sites spread out all over Turkana Land. Significant reminders of Kenya's colonial past are preserved by museum sites in Lodwar and Lokitaung.



Turkana Land is a wide and a wild country, where to the south, especially within the South Turkana National Reserve, elephant, leopard, oryx antelope, gazelle, warthog as well as an exceptionally high number of Kori bustard roam. Along the border with South Sudan in the extreme northwest, the massive savannah grassland of the Lotikipi plains forms another haven for wildlife which isn't marked as a nature reserve but still is worth visiting.

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A wilderness with an out-of-this-world flair is Central Island National Park, the home of thousands of birds and crocodiles in the middle of Lake Turkana. Three crater lakes talk of the volcanic origin of Central Island, one offering a home to flamingos, another to tilapia fish and the third to crocodiles. Ferguson Gulf near Kalokol with an abundance in pelicans, flamingos and other waterfowl is a bird watcher's paradise and so are many other spots of Turkana, making it a prime destination for 'birdies'.

Other regions of Turkana Land not yet open for tourism offer a refugium to precious sceneries such as the blistering Suguta Valley or Omo Delta which has a healthy population of massive crocodiles.



Turkana Land is where you can relax kabissa! 'Kabissa' means 'completely' in Swahili language. It boasts miles upon miles of palm fringed, unspoiled sandy beaches on the shores of Lake Turkana, the world's biggest permanent desert lake. Swimming in its slightly alkaline waters cures many skin ailments, making it a giant natural spa.



You can make a unique and truly authentic bathing experience to the very south of Turkana County. In Kapedo right by the foot of the Silali Volcano, two hot streams plunge over a small escarpment before merging with Suguta River.

**How does that sound:** to immerse yourself in a natural mineral spa, fed by a hot waterfall? Whether you prefer it boiling hot or lukewarm, you will find the right water temperature in Mother Nature's bathing tub, depending on how close you are to the merger of the hot streams with Suguta River!

# *Attractions*



# CENTRAL ISLAND NATIONAL PARK



As its name suggests, Central Island grows out of the water in the middle of Lake Turkana. Being of volcanic origin, the island owns three crater lakes, one being home for tilapia fish, another one for thousands of flamingos and the third one for crocodiles. Central Island is also an important breeding place for crocodiles and a diverse avian fauna and this is why it is protected as a national park. You can explore the island on foot, it takes only about one hour to climb the highest point from where you enjoy unrivalled vistas over Lake Turkana.

If equipped with a tent you may also stay overnight which will give you the chance to watch the changing colours of marvellous sunrises and sunsets, and the glittering of myriads of stars. As you have to share the island only with a few rangers, thousands of birds and an unknown crocodile number, and because the volcanic landscape is so weird, be prepared to have an out-of-this world feeling.

The ultimate place for lovers of birds, great landscapes and serenity!

## BEACHES OF ELIYE BEACH



Just 50 kilometres east of Lodwar lies Eliye Springs, a small resort that, back in the 1970ies enjoyed astonishing popularity with the international jet set who flew in from Nairobi with private planes to spend a weekend angling on the lake and partying on the beach. Eliye Springs surely is the greatest place to unwind. It has a very laid-back atmosphere, endless palm fringed sand beaches, massive sand dune from which you enjoy a panoramic view of Lake Turkana with no mobile network.

Domestic tourists visit Eliye beach over the weekend when they want to be unreachable and enjoy total peace and fun.



Ferguson Gulf is a huge bay full of shallow water, confined towards Lake Turkana by a sandy ridge overgrown by doum palm trees, a terrific landscape! Everybody around seems to be busy fishing, thousands of pelicans, flamingos and yellow billed storks as well as the local fishermen who practise their trade with sailing boats, canoes with outboard engines or traditional rafts which supposedly are the most ancient vessels of human kind. It all explains why nearby town of Kalokol is the centre of Turkana's fishing industry.

At Ferguson Gulf, you can watch the work of the fishermen and accompany them as they go out to the lake, do some bird watching or simply come to marvel at the sunrises and sunsets which turn the orange waters into fluid fervour.

## KALOKOL STANDING STONES



People don't expect a mythical experience right next to a main road. But so it may happen at Namorutunga when you drive from Lodwar to Kalokol.

A gang of local elders can tell you all about the people of stone, which is the literal translation of the local name of the site. As the tale goes, the basalt pillars once where people dancing were cursed and turned into stone by an angry sorcerer. Archaeologists are not so sure that this is the true origin of the site but rather suspect that it has been a place of worship since approximately 2,000 years. Whatever the truth might be, it is beyond doubt that Namorutunga has been a spiritual power place for people since a very long time.

The local Turkana still pray here, which you can tell by the many pebbles that are placed on the stone pillars. When you pay a visit, talk to the people of stone or simply have a look at the open air temple which is presumably two millennia old.

## HOT WATERFALLS OF KAPEDO



On arrival in Kapedo, the border town of Baringo and Turkana County on the road running up from Lake Baringo, visitors probably will rub their eyes in disbelief when they see the major attraction of the region:

Two boiling hot waterfalls that plunge over a small escarpment before merging with Suguta River! Kapedo itself is a picturesque village where traditional grass thatched huts prevail. The surrounding has also a lot of charm with Silali volcano to the east and Tiati hills to the west which both are a rewarding hiking terrain. After walking the hills you can treat your tired legs with a swim in the huge bathing tub of Mother Nature, the warm waters of Suguta River.

Whether you prefer it boiling hot or lukewarm, you will find the right water temperature depending on how close you are to the merger of the hot streams with Suguta River!

## LOBOLO SWAMP OF FLAMINGOES



A unique ensemble of sand dunes, lakescape, doom palm trees and a swampy lagoon characterize the area of Lobolo swamp. Myriads of flamingo, holy ibis and other waterfowl have chosen it as their stomping ground. In case you are a bird watcher or merely a nature lover, you will enjoy staying and unwinding here very much!

There is an exclusive tented camp near a natural spring covered by a shady palm grove, right at the shores of beautiful Lake Turkana.

Whether you simply want a calm time to unwind or explore the surroundings on foot together with the camp's naturalist and mingle with the resident flamingos, you will have a rewarding time in Lobolo, just some 20 kilometres north of Eliye Springs

# LOKORI STANDING STONES AND ROCK ART



In Lokori, not too far from the banks of Kerio River, there is one of Turkana's most impressive archaeological sites, an ensemble of numerous circles of standing stones and two hills bearing mysterious rock art engravings.

The local people will insist that the standing stone slabs once have been dancers turned into rocks by a wizard, similar to the stories you might have heard at the Namurutunga site near Kalokol. But again, archaeologists suspect other origins.

Whether a graveyard or a site with another purpose, it surely must have been a place of important rituals. When you come to Lokori, catch up with the spirit of the place.

# NARIOKOTOME TURKANA BOY MONUMENT



Where do we originally come from? Possibly from Nariokotome, near the shores of Lake Turkana! This is at least where the remnants of the world famous Turkana Boy were found, a near complete skeleton of an approximately 1.6 million year old Homo erectus. This early human species is generally regarded by scientists as one of our direct ancestors.

A monumental pillar and a brass replica of the Turkana Boy mark the spot where Kamoya Kimeu, a researcher of Dr. Richard Leakey's scientific team detected the fossil in 1984. Many more important hominid findings have been made in other parts of Turkana County such as the oldest known stone tools with a suspected age of 3.5 million years, which support Turkana's claim to be the Cradle of Mankind.



When travelling from Kitale to Lodwar, most people drive past Turkana's largest nature reserve without even sensing what they are missing. South Turkana National Reserve is probably one of the least visited nature reserves in the whole of Kenya but it is a hidden gem! Chances to meet other tourists there are minimal.

So why don't you just fancy to possess your own private national park? You can explore South Turkana by 4WD or on foot. You may see oryx antelopes, gazelles, warthogs, a wonderful birdlife and leopard, most prominently are elephants. Animals are shy and harder to trace than in the popular parks of Southern Kenya, but in exchange for that you don't have to share them with a pack of minibuses.

The true adventure of South Turkana is its scenic beauty of vast plains with anthills of record breaking height and singular mountains.



# TURKANA CULTURAL FESTIVAL



The annual Turkana Tourism and Cultural Festival is held at Ekaleez exhibition grounds on the fringes of Lodwar. It is a three day festival attracting tens of thousands of visitors with a program that offers a blend of traditions and modernity. Traditional dance, performances of well-known Kenyan singers, a trade fair, a market and a huge choma zone where people chat and dance and party the nights away create a unique blend of culture and entertainment that pleases local Turkana, neighbours from Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia as well as people coming from Nairobi and abroad.

The festival program is diverse and comprises of the display of traditional Turkana houses, an exhibition and trade fair for companies and organisations, a market with traditional produce, such as bead works and woven baskets and most importantly, a popular stage program. Dance troupes from all over Turkana display their artistry and various famous Kenyan singers boil up the crowd. At night, when the air gets as smooth as silk, the festival grounds turn into a huge nyama choma area, where people sit under the sparkling stars, listening to music, talking, eating, laughing and making new friends until dawn – festival atmosphere at its best!



There are few places remaining in Africa today where you can witness a traditional culture of such beauty and integrity. The Turkana culture is vivified by a unique wealth of dresses, hairstyles, jewellery, sayings, tales, songs, craftsmanship and knowledge. A visit to Turkana Land offers you the chance to experience the fascinating pastoralist way of life. Turkana Land and the Turkana people are pastoralist in nature. It defines who they are and in fact around 70% of the Turkana continue to practice the traditional pastoralist lifestyle that appears to have been the first form of economy known to man. As such, it marked a major development step in the evolution of humanity. Especially impressive is the yearly peace festival at Lokiriama near the Ugandan border, where elders from Turkana, Toposa, Karamojong and three other neighbouring tribes pledged peace more than four decades ago – a treaty celebrated and renewed with an annual three day festival in September. The grave of Nayeche, the legendary mother of all Turkana people is a holy place of prayer which must be only visited in the company of a local so that no customs are violated. Towards the end of the year another festival is held at the legendary burial site which anticipates a huge crowd of Turkana people.



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This is Kenya done differently. When you join us at Cradle, your experience goes beyond a typical African safari. While traditional operators may encourage you to experience Africa from a jeep or overland truck, true explorers know that connecting with a place means connecting with its people.

We've been working with sustainable tourism partners for the last four years, allowing us to form close bonds with local Turkana communities. At the end of each adventure-filled day, your accommodations at the Cradle Tented Camp and Lodge situated in Lodwar, Turkana await. From creature comforts like hot showers, delicious meals and beautiful, comfortable accommodations, to expert local guides and friendly staff, we take care of every detail, letting you focus on being present and connected.

# OUR SUSTAINABILITY PILLARS

## Education

When children are educated, they are armed with the courage and self-confidence to better themselves and their families, their communities and the next generation. The Cradle Tented Camp and Lodge launched an ambitious project that targets to sponsor needy, bright students who live in the host community. Currently 2 students are at Alliance High School in Kikuyu Kenya. We look forward to sponsor more in 2020.

## Water: Clean Water and Sanitation

The lodge works to help communities gain access to sustainable sources of clean water, which helps remove barriers to education by reducing illness and allowing girls to go to school instead of spending hours each day fetching their family's water often from contaminated sources. In 2018, the lodge connected clean piped water to the host village. This water point now serves a village population of 200 people. Cases associated with dirty water related diseases has drastically reduced.

## Health

Children who are healthy can attend school more often, and families who have access to health care can keep their children in school instead of pulling them out to help run farms because parents are too sick to work. The lodge in collaboration with other partners has supported various health initiatives around the host community. The lodge management approve the construction of a maternity wing around Longelech beach. Once completed in 2020, the maternity wing will improve children delivery and equally reduce infant mortality rate in the host community.

## Food: Agriculture and Food Security

The lodge works with communities on programs that promote food security and improved agriculture, like kitchen gardens and irrigation projects. In 2018, the lodge purchased 2 generators for the host community to enable them practice irrigation and later sell the produce to the lodge. This project has elicited a lot of attention which has resulted to small women groups forging a common alliance to have sufficiency in food production. As a lodge, we believe that when children are fed, they can attend school, do well and get an education. When families are fed, they can work together to pull themselves out of poverty.

## Opportunity: Income and Livelihood

When parents have the time and money to invest in their children's education and health, another barrier to education is removed and school attendance increases. When women are empowered to earn a living, they in turn empower their children to pull themselves out of poverty and achieve a brighter future. Through this pillar, the lodge has partnered with Turkana women basket group who sell their products at Lodwar market. Through our support, the women groups can now access other markets outside Lodwar. We are also looking at coming up with a business centre at the Lodge where the women group can sell their wares to guests in the hotel. This project is equally a signature experience to guests who would like to learn more about weaving traditional baskets.

Other than the above, the Cradle Tented Camp and Lodge has a 5 year clean energy use plan. This will involve recycling used water for reuse in social amenities within the facility. A solar panel will equally be constructed to generate electricity for kitchen use, street lighting, rooms and laundry. Plans are also underway to produce organic food crops in greenhouses which will supplement the produce supplied by other companies.

In the long run a clear policy on supply chain code of ethics will be mooted for suppliers who want to do business with the Cradle Tented Camp and Lodge.



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