

## Agents Fact sheet and Introduction to Lentorre Lodge...



Deep in the Great Rift Valley, beyond the volcanic lunar landscape surrounding the soda lakes of Magadi and Natron, in the Olkiramatian Conservancy lies the oasis of Lentorre. Lentorre is set on a spur running off the Nguruman Escarpment beside a natural spring in the Olkiramatian Conservancy, a community initiative developed by the local Maasai community to protect their wildlife, traditional lifestyle and heritage. Lentorre itself is family owned and operated to guarantee the most personalised of service to travellers and adventurers.

Nestled in this natural amphitheatre, Lentorre provides uninhibited views of Mt Shompole, Ol Donyo Gelai and the active volcano Ol Donyo Lengai. The spring behind the lodge provides a constant source of cool fresh water and sustains a grove of venerable tamarind trees where the Olkiramatian warriors traditionally met as they came of age, where elephants continue to gather to feed on ripe tamarind.

Lentorre and the Olkiramatian and Shompole ranches are very unique in that they are in one of the few areas in Africa where Wildlife and Livestock live in the same area with each other in relative harmony, each utilising the resources (grazing, river water) at different times and creating what we like to call a mini migration each day around the river. This has added a very different perspective to the traditional safari and speaks directly to the management of Human Wildlife conflict which affects all of Africa and its habitats, a story we hope to be able to share with you and your guests.

Karibu sana, (Welcome!), the Lentorre team.



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### The Lodge.... Quick facts

1. The Lodge has six 'villas' if you like but can comfortably take 16 because two rooms are family units (which are essentially two self-contained rooms connected together). Further details:
  - a. Room 1: for us, the prime room directly overlooking the waterhole (literally probably 40 meters away) which has incredible activity day and night.
  - b. Room 2a and 2b: built side by side into one unit but both with their own ensuite facilities, allow for either two singles (there is a separating hall way with canvas dividers), families with kids that they want next door, or even two twins depending on the group dynamics. Room 2 also overlooks the waterhole.
  - c. Room 3: Stunning view of Mount Shompole, the Escarpment and the plains.
  - d. Room 4: Stunning view of Mount Shompole, the Escarpment and the plains.
  - e. Room 5: Stunning view of Mount Shompole, the Escarpment and the plains.
  - f. Room 6a and 6b: to try and address the need for families with teenagers who don't necessarily want their kids right next door, but close by, 6a and 6b is one very large unit with a stair case separating the two villas, which are on different levels. It therefore again can be used for two doubles, or two twins of a family unit.
  - g. Please note that each room is set up differently (with the same feel) and each room has its own proper sized plunge pool, with room 6 having quite a large pool.
  - h. All the rooms have fans in them.
2. The lodge has a main pool as well.
3. The Lodge is unfenced, with three security guards that patrol at night, and we of course do 'taxi services' to and from the rooms after dusk.
4. We have an upper common area with a bar, where we normally serve breakfast (again with a great view over the northern part of the conservancy from an elevated point, and normally you have great dust devils and the trail of dust in the distance of the livestock in the area being taken to water. We also alternately serve lunch up here as well in the shade if we feel it is a hot day).
5. We have a lower common area about 70 meters away from the upper area, separated by the pool. The lower common area is set up for guests to relax during the day if they don't want to be in their rooms, has its own fully stocked bar and overlooks our new waterhole and blind (please see document on blind and waterhole). We serve dinner out here under the stars overlooking the waterhole so guests can have dinner and watch what comes to have a drink.
6. Lentorre is built on what we believe is a hill that has formed over many many years, made up of river deposits from the stream that still supplies water to camp, and takes you out up and offers an uninhibited view of:
  - a. the Nguruman Escarpment: for those that do not know, the Nguruman Escarpment forms the western wall of the Great Rift Valley. We find that telling and showing clients an actual wall of the Great Rift (right next to

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camp- literally) and then getting into talks about the Rift Valley and its lakes etc. is very interesting. Every guest that comes to Kenya is told about the Great Rift Valley, but Lentorre gives a completely visual experience of it.

- b. Mount Shompole.
  - c. The 'active' volcano Oldonyo Lengai.
  - d. The Olkiramatian and Shompole plains, with nothing to interrupt the views but pure wilderness and animals.
7. We have our guide team on the ground, a back of house manager for the systems and 'hards' such as cars etc, and a lady to handle the soft side of camp from food to rooms. Our local guide is excellent and being able to engage the clients on the local community and cultural activities which are a big hit with international guests.
  8. We prefer to sell Lentorre as an exclusive product, with a massive selling point being that we are the ONLY lodge on Olkiramatian Conservancy, with access to the Shompole Conservancy our neighbour whom we work closely with, and even Shompole only has one camp on it- so the guests have a truly exclusive experience, in their exclusive conservancy and lodge. For bookings of minimum of five pax, we close the dates to any other enquiry- giving full attention to that one group's safari experience.
  9. Food and wine- our prices are inclusive of a well-stocked bar, with good Vodkas, Gins, whiskies, Rums, Wines etc. all included in the rate. Should a guest require something very high end, we deal with that on a case by case basis but are completely open and willing to facilitate this.
  10. We have a masseuse on site for every group, you can chose to treat your guests to this and include it in their price, or we can charge them directly.
  11. Food- we have had great reviews on our food and are able to handle all dietary requirements. We also do some great Indian food if there is a request for it.
  12. The rooms are designed to be as open as possible during the day, so the guests are truly able to experience the environment, and then at night we close all the canvas up for safety purposes and peace of mind for the guests.



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### The Lentorre waterhole and Underground Blind



We have had a waterhole in front of camp as above from inception but have just made additional changes to make it larger and allow for the pictures to be as natural as possible. We are excited to have just built an underground blind (pictured above) with a tunnel leading to it. The blind is right on the waterhole allowing you and your guests to be at eye level with the water. It is hard to put across how fantastic this waterhole is, with guaranteed daily action. We have large herds of Zebra, Impala, Vervet Monkeys and Baboon troops in the mornings and afternoons. On almost every evening the waterhole is active with guests having dinner and experiencing everything from Lion, Spotted and Striped hyena, Buffalo, Aardwolf, Leopard, Giraffe, Genets, and even on the very lucky occasion- Porcupine! We have also recently had Cheetah at the waterhole during the late afternoon however this is rare and more commonly found on the Plains, and in the last year we have had Wild Dog coming through the area though admittedly this has been rare- but becoming more frequent. In June 2017 we had a count of just over 50 Wild dog at the waterhole one evening and we are hopeful that they will become regular visitors. Please see attached some pictures of the Blind and waterhole. The waterhole is definitely a high selling point to guests, and would be fantastic for proper photography trips/ groups that have the patience and want to camp out in the blind and wait.



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### The Area



1. The Olkirimatian conservancy is 25,000 hectares and bordered immediately with the Shompole group ranch, which is 60,000 hectares, giving the guests a large area to roam, with exclusive access to the Olkeramatian conservancy and access to the Shompole conservancy. We have so far never come across any other car on a game drive.
2. Since it is a private conservancy, we have full rights to drive off road with no time limits on return to camp allowing complete freedom to the wilderness at all times.
3. Road network- we have developed an extensive network that allows for a short drive around camp, longer drives out to the Shompole plains and swamp, Lake Natron, Lake Magadi and the Southern Ewaso Ng'iro river.
4. The area is completely unique in our opinion as you have within the area, all with easy access for the guests:
  - a. Savannah plains
  - b. Thick bush
  - c. A Fig tree forest with huge tree canopies inhabited by around nine Colobus families
  - d. The salt Lakes of Magadi and Natron, virtually guaranteeing Flamingo viewing and lots of other salt lake birds
  - e. Salt pans and great vistas

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- f. The Ewaso Ngiro river which is stunning for evening sundowners or just an afternoon with chairs in the river reading a book or watching the livestock come to drink at various points
  - g. The escarpment, and the mountains in the distance
  - h. Authentic cultural activities designed around the group dynamics, from walking cows to their boma, boma visits (With all the extras if the guest have the appetite for it!), spectacular dances with Warriors and ladies from the area which we like to do on the river site with sundowners, a large fire and bush dinners.
5. Getting there- guests can drive in, or fly by charter to two airstrips. Our main airstrip is about a 25-30 minute game drive to camp, and the Magadi airstrip (which is all weather) is about an hour and a half from camp, but is only used when we are doing Flamingo excursions for guests.

### **Activities and Wildlife:**

1. Because of the nature of the area and the altitude (around 900 meters above sea level) the main game drives happen early morning and evening/ night by spot light. Unlike other areas around Africa, the night drives are extremely productive, and because we are a generally warmer area, the night drives are done in a really comfortable temperature, with guests going out in shorts and not feeling cold, adding a different dynamic to the safari experience.
2. Animals in the area- Impala, Dik Dik, Kudu, Grants Gazelle, Giraffe, Elephant, Lions, Leopards, Cheetah, Aardwolf, Striped and Spotted Hyena, Colobus monkey, vervet monkeys, genet, Wild cat, Bush babies, Porcupine, Honey badgers, various mongoose... the list does go on with the only major species we don't have being Rhino. Our bird life is great- we had a guest record over 110 species of birds in three days at camp - from Marshall Eagles, Ostrich and Secretary birds to Greater and Lesser Flamingo, African Spoon bills and Pelicans in the Lakes to the smaller weavers and sunbirds.
3. Flamingo viewing at Lake Magadi or Lake Natron. Lake Magadi gets you closer to the Flamingo so we do this more often than Natron. We can do this as morning excursion, or depending on back to back bookings, we can do a drive out on the last morning to Lake Magadi and then have the clients charter out of the Magadi Airstrip, with the chance to, visit and dip in the healing waters of the Hot springs of Magadi for the more adventurous guest.
4. Colobus monkey viewing in the Fig tree forest- it is a real treat to move from the plains and bush into this fig tree forest with its canopies and thick forest. We like to do this as a morning drive followed by a bush breakfast if it works with the group in the shade of the forest.
5. Sundowners: because of the vistas and the nature of the area we have fantastic sunsets and make the most of them by setting up at various spots. Of course, this

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can also be done out of the back of the car wherever you are- totally depends on what you and the guests would prefer.

6. Maasai Boma visits which are very authentic in this area, and the ability to see an ancient culture almost unchanged.
7. We like to offer the guests a different experience by arranging to meet a herd of livestock as it is being driven to its boma for the night, and actually have the guests interact with the herders and bring the cows/ goats in for the night. This can be followed by a visit of the boma if the guests are so inclined and an interactive explanation of the Maasai culture and way of living.
8. Maasai dances, which we like to do at a special spot on the river with a stunning background, a fire and sundowners.
9. Walking: we have a great walk up the escarpment next to camp, which ends with a vast view over the entire area. Estimated walking time is 30 minutes up and 30 down depending on the fitness of the guests. We also send a sundowner up the hill. We also do walking on the plains for guests that want to get out and stretch their legs.
10. School visits: we can take your guests to the local schools and have them attend a class, see how the education system in the area works, or just go play a massive football match!
11. Baboon walks: for those that would like to, there is also the option for an early morning wake up to meet up with a troop of Baboons that are habituated, and walk with them and learn about their behaviour.
12. During the day we find the guests simply want to enjoy the lodge, the pools, the blind and read a book- but we have a masseuse on site to fill in the hours with some pampering as well.
13. For the more adventurous, with prior booking we can organise Canoeing on the river (subject to water levels), Fishing (mainly Cat fish) and Tubing down the river- again subject to water levels so we are careful not to say it is a guaranteed activity.
14. Helicopter journeys: Perhaps nothing is as amazing as seeing the area from the skies in a helicopter due to the incredible patterns and colours on Lake Magadi and Lake Natron.

