

# Black Leopard

2025

Photo Safari



# Letter From the Team

At Tusk Photo, we pride ourselves on providing exceptional safari experiences, where every detail is carefully curated to ensure your journey is nothing short of extraordinary. Our team of guides, who possess an intimate knowledge of the local wildlife and ecosystems, will be by your side, ready to share their insights and help you capture unbelievable photos.

Imagine exploring the vast savannahs, witnessing the majestic herds of elephants in Amboseli, or immersing yourself in the remarkable biodiversity of the Serengeti. Picture yourself standing in awe as you witness the raw power of lions on the hunt, or capturing the elegance of a leopard as it prowls through the golden grasslands. With Tusk Photo, these extraordinary moments will become a reality.

We understand that photography is more than just a hobby for you; it's a way to express your creativity and preserve memories that will last a lifetime. That's why we go the extra mile to ensure that you have the best opportunities to capture those unique shots. From providing expert guidance on camera settings and composition to positioning our vehicles strategically for the perfect angle, we are dedicated to helping you achieve your photography goals.

But a Tusk Safari is not just about wildlife and photography; it's about creating cherished memories and forging lifelong connections. Our team is committed to providing you with personalised attention, exceptional service, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout your journey. We want you to feel like part of our Tusk family, sharing laughter, stories, and the sheer joy of exploring the best that nature has to offer.

Allow us to take you on a journey of discovery, where you will witness nature's wonders, capture breathtaking photographs, and create memories that will stay with you forever.

Please feel free to reach out to our friendly team for any further information or to discuss your specific requirements. We are here to assist you every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome you to the Tusk Photo family and share this incredible experience with you.



The Tusk Team



# Overview

Sprawling on the edge of the northern Kenyan frontier, stretching from the slopes of Mt Kenya to the rim of the Great Rift Valley, lies one of Africa's most pristine and untouched wilderness areas, the Laikipia region.

Embark on an exciting journey to photograph one of the rarest big cats in Africa – the stunning Black Leopard.

For the most part, the chances of spotting a black leopard in the wild has been reserved to the forests of India, where most of the black leopard images we've seen in the past have come from.

“Black” leopard sightings, and tales thereof, have been somewhat of a legend across various parts of Africa..... until now!!!!

In 2018, a series of camera-trap images surfaced and caused great excitement for photographers across the world. Nestled deep within the Laikipia Plateau of Kenya a small population of black leopards was discovered.

Over the past years, local guides and trackers have spent day-after-day in the field, absorbing everything they can to understand the movement and territories of these amazing big cats. This has resulted in regular and consistent sightings.

This photo safari is designed to take you to the heart of black leopard territory to experience and photograph one of Africa's rarest big cats.



# What You Can Expect

## Exceptional Wildlife Encounters:

Laikipia is world-renowned for its black leopard sightings, one of the rarest and most captivating experiences in the animal kingdom. These melanistic cats have made Laikipia their home, and this trip offers a unique opportunity to photograph them.

A particular female black leopard, born and raised just 100 meters from the camp, is regularly sighted and remarkably relaxed around vehicles. With early morning and afternoon/night safaris, you'll have unrivalled potential to photograph these magnificent cats.

While our focus will be on the Black Leopard on the safari, the excitement doesn't stop there.

Laikipia is teeming with wildlife, offering spectacular encounters —lion, elephant, leopard, buffalo and wild dogs —as well as other iconic east African species like Grevy's zebra and reticulated giraffe. The diverse landscapes, ranging from rolling hills and open plains to dense forests and winding rivers, create a breathtaking backdrop for your photography.

Our expert guides, with their deep knowledge of the area and its wildlife, will position you perfectly to seize the most dynamic and intimate shots.

## Professional Guidance and Learning:

Tusk Photo prides itself on providing more than just a tour; it's an opportunity for growth and learning. Our seasoned photographic hosts, not only well-versed in the intricacies of animal behaviour but also deeply passionate about photography, will lead you through the landscape, offering insights, tips, and techniques to elevate your craft. Whether you're a novice or an experienced photographer, expect to refine your skills in the art of capturing the wild.



Laikipia Wilderness Camp is dedicated to sustainable tourism, ensuring that your photography adventure leaves a minimal footprint.

The camp's eco-friendly practices and strong community ties mean that your experience not only captures the beauty of this remarkable region but also contributes to its preservation.

This safari is more than just a photography trip —it's an unforgettable adventure, promising a portfolio of awe-inspiring images and the satisfaction of supporting conservation in one of Africa's last great wilderness areas.

# Where You Will Stay

Nestling on a hillside above the Ewaso Narok River, Laikipia Wilderness Camp enjoys a unique, more adventurous, relaxed safari experience where people prefer to stay longer and enjoy this family-owned camp.

Six spacious tented rooms complement central dining with indoor and outdoor living areas giving snug warmth and views of the stunning Laikipia Landscape.

Understated luxury; each bedroom and ensuite bathroom is individually designed using local materials, sustainable soaps and body wash.

Cool, private verandas invite peace and relaxation while you enjoy the vista and the wildlife.

On top of a rock above camp, a swinging bench offers a 360-degree view of the Laikipia landscape with the impressive skyline of Mount Kenya on clear days. Feel free to grab your book and enjoy the tranquility of this unique viewpoint.



# Dates | Costs | Prices

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Spaces</u>	<u>Nights</u>
29 April - 4 May 2025	\$ 6750	4	5
8 - 13 July 2025	\$ 6750	4	5
2 - 7 November 2025	\$ 6750	4	5

## Cost:

Our safari experience is priced at \$6750 per person sharing. Single supplement is \$1250. Please note that any bank charges incurred during the payment process are not covered by Tusk Photo. We kindly request the full amount indicated on the invoice, including any fees imposed by Paypal if you choose to use this payment method.

## Deposit:

To secure your reservation, a 50% deposit of the full price is required within 14 days of making your booking. Once we receive your deposit, your booking will be confirmed. Please make sure to complete this step within the given timeframe to secure your spot.

## Balance:

The remaining balance is due at least 9 weeks prior to the safari. If you are making a booking within 9 weeks of the safari, the full price will be payable at the time of booking.

## Cancellation Policy:

We understand that plans can change, and in the event of a cancellation, the following fees will apply unless Tusk Photo is able to fill your safari space:

- Cancellation more than 120 days prior to departure: 10% of the full price
- Cancellation 90 - 119 days prior to departure: 40% of the full price
- Cancellation 60 - 89 days prior to departure: 70% of the full price
- Cancellation less than 60 days prior to departure: 100% of the full price

Please note: Your travel plans are made entirely at your own risk, and Tusk Photo cannot be held responsible for any flight cancellations, disruptions, or delays that may occur. We recommend considering travel insurance to protect your investment and provide peace of mind.

# Itinerary

## DAY 1

- Meet at Wilson Airport and take our flight to Laikipia.
- Enjoy a briefing and afternoon tea, followed by a game drive.

## DAYS 2-5

- Experience early morning and late afternoon/evening game drives on open vehicles exploring all the areas has to offer.

## DAY 6

- After a morning game drive, enjoy brunch and transfer to the airstrip for a flight back to Wilson airport Nairobi.
- End of tour



# What You Get

## **INCLUDED:**

- Full board accommodation at Laikipia
- All meals
- Local Selection of drinks included
- Services of Tusk Photo hosts to assist and guide you
- Game Drives
- Domestic Flights: domestic flights included - Wilson / Laikipia / Wilson

## **EXCLUDED:**

- Visas
- Telephone calls
- Gratuities
- Purchases of a personal nature
- International Flights to and from Kenya.





# Flights and Transport

- Check-in is one hour prior for domestic departures and two hours prior for international departures.
- Please make sure to check on your relevant passport visa requirements for Kenya. All RSA passport holders now require a visa to enter Kenya and their can be obtained online at <https://www.etakenya.go.ke/en>
- Many scheduled regional flights may involve multiple stops before reaching final destination.
- On arrival after clearing customs and immigration in Nairobi, we recommend you take a taxi to Wilson airport. There are many taxis available as you exit the airport.

# Photography and Gear

It is not advisable to take photographs of border posts or military/ police posts. Doing so can lead to an unpleasant situation and even arrest. Always ask permission before taking a photograph of the any local African residents; it is a sign of respect. In most cases a small payment is expected. However some cultures believe that the camera steals their soul and we request that you respect and understand their beliefs.

It is advisable to bring the following camera equipment:

- 2x Camera bodies (a backup will mean peace of mind)
- Spare memory cards and batteries
- Long telephoto lens 400/500/600
- Medium telephoto lens 70-200 or equivalent
- Wide angle lens(es) 24-70 / 14-24
- Flash and battery pack is advisable although optional
- Notebook or additional storage device
- Camera trap equipment (Optional)

Please remember that it is very likely that you could possibly photograph thousands of images over the 6 day period. We therefore strongly advise you to have sufficient storage and battery arrangements in place. If you are unsure of anything please contact us for more details

# Tour Info

## INSURANCE

- **Travel Insurance:**

While it is highly unlikely, there is a possibility of scheduled flights in and out of your destination being delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. To provide peace of mind and cover any potential flight disruptions or missed connections, we strongly recommend purchasing additional travel insurance.

- **Medical Insurance:**

For your safety and well-being, we highly recommend having medical insurance that covers unforeseen medical emergencies and evacuation. Please let us know in your booking form whether you have taken out any medical insurance for this safari.

Travellers 83 years and older will need to arrange their own comprehensive travel insurance.

## PASSPORTS AND CUSTOMS

- Passports are required by all foreign visitors and must be valid for 6 months after the intended length of stay. Please ensure that there are two blank pages per country to be visited.
- South African citizens require no visas to enter Botswana.
- It is advisable to declare any cameras, lenses, laptops and other valuable items when leaving your country. We normally recommend keeping a detailed list of all items including serial numbers and descriptions. This makes the customs process that much quicker as all that is generally required is for the customs official to stamp the document.



## MONEY AND CURRENCY

- The currencies accepted in Kenya are, Kenyan Shilling (KES) and US Dollars (USD) USD will need to be exchanged in some instances at local rates.
- Banks and foreign exchange bureaux are available at all international airports and in all main towns.
- Credit card payments can be processed at the camps.
- US dollars are widely accepted; however, notes dated before 2003 are no longer accepted.

## HEALTH

- Please consult your physician before you travel for advice on precautions against malaria.
- Should you require additional advice, we suggest you contact your local travel clinic for consultations regarding Malaria and the Immunisations required for travel to Kenya.
- Yellow fever certificate may be required.

## LANGUAGES

- The official language of Kenya is English, Kiswahili (Swahili) is the national language. There are also various tribal languages spoken throughout the country. Almost everybody involved in the tourism industry, either directly or indirectly, will be able to speak some English.

## DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We understand the importance of accommodating diverse dietary needs, and our team is dedicated to ensuring that we can cater to most dietary requirements. Please provide us with any specific dietary needs in your booking form.

## POWER AND ELECTRICITY

220v battery power (charged by the generator / solar) is used for lighting in guest tents 24hrs a day.

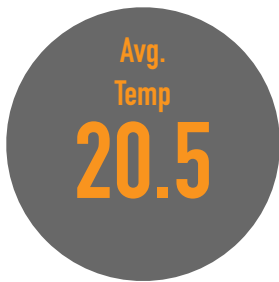
220v plugs available in each tent for the charging of batteries only. Hence bring spare battery, charging unit and adaptors. Universal Power Plug Adaptor (Kenya uses UK-type plugs)



## CLIMATE

Kenya has a rainy season from November to May, with a break in January and February. November and December have "short rains" with temperatures around 27°C (81°F) in the afternoons. January and February see less rainfall but occasional showers. March, April, and May bring long rains, with April being the wettest month and cool mornings at around 13°C (55°F). The dry season lasts from June to October. Days are warm with occasional showers, while nights can be cold due to varying altitudes. June, July, and August are sunny and dry, with afternoon temperatures reaching 25°C (77°F). Evenings and early mornings are chilly, around 12°C (54°F). September and October are dry with some possible rain. October temperatures can reach 27°C (81°F), but rain may cause a decrease.

Average rainfall varies throughout the year: around 10 rainy days per month during the dry season, about 15 days during the short rainy season, and approximately 21 days during the long rainy season.



## CLOTHING AND WHAT TO PACK

For a memorable safari experience, we suggest opting for comfortable, casual wash-and-wear attire. To enhance your game-viewing experience, it is advisable to choose muted colours. Keep in mind that game-drives are typically conducted during the early morning and late afternoon, which can be quite cold, particularly in winter.

To ensure you are well-prepared, we recommend packing the following practical items for your safari:

- Comfortable, casual wash-and-wear clothes in muted colours.
- Long-sleeved shirts for sun and mosquito protection.
- T-shirts for layering.
- Shorts or light skirt for warmer days.
- Jeans or safari trousers for cooler evenings.
- Bring a jacket and sweater for chilly morning and evening game drives.
- Pack a lightweight, waterproof jacket for potential afternoon showers.
- Wear comfortable walking shoes.
- Essential items: sunblock, sunglasses, hat, insect repellent, moisturiser, lip balm.
- binoculars and camera equipment.
- Good quality safari clothing (we opt for Craghoppers Nosilife)

## GRATUITIES

Please note that the following gratuity amounts are provided as a minimum guideline, and you are welcome to increase them if you wish:

- Ranger / Guide USD 20 per person per day
- Camp staff USD 10 per person per day

## CONNECTIVITY & EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

The phone code for Kenya is +254. Telecommunications are relatively good in Kenya and mobile phones will work in many areas of the country although you will need to ensure that international roaming is enabled by your mobile provider. Reasonable Wifi is available at all three camps. For Main Camp this is in the Wifi hut, for River Camp and Palm Camp this is in the central areas. If you have access to a local sim or you are happy roaming we also have limited reception in camp. Please ask the team and they will show you the best spot for reception.

Tusk Photo Safaris PTA Office  
Tel: +27 12 761 3737 (Office Hours)

# Indemnity

Tusk Photo and its staff prioritise your safety and wellbeing during your safari; however, please be aware that we cannot accept liability for any incidents, including but not limited to accidents, loss, or property damage. By completing the Safari Booking form, you acknowledge the inherent risks associated with travel and agree to indemnify Tusk Photo against any claims or liabilities that may arise.

While this document provides comprehensive information, it is not exhaustive. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Please note that the information contained herein is correct at the time of compilation to the best of our knowledge.

## We Are Excited To Host You on Your Dream Photographic Safari!

