

# The Northern Frontier & Rhino Sanctuary: A 4-Day Expedition

From the sun-baked, red-earth landscapes of the northern frontier to the lush, life-giving springs of the Laikipia plateau, this journey offers a striking contrast of Kenya's most iconic wildernesses. This isn't just a safari; it is an immersion into the rare and the resilient. You will track the "Samburu Special Five"—species found nowhere else in the country—before crossing back over the equator to a sanctuary dedicated to the survival of the world's last northern white rhinos.

Between the rugged cliffs of Samburu and the predator-rich plains of Ol Pejeta, this 4-day circuit captures the raw heart of African conservation and the untamed beauty of the wild.

## **Day 1: Journey to the Northern Frontier**

The safari begins with a drive from Nairobi toward the rugged landscapes of the Samburu National Reserve. After crossing the equator and arriving at **Samburu Sopa Lodge**, you will settle into your cottage, which offers panoramic views of the arid plains. In the late afternoon, set out for your first game drive to encounter the "Samburu Special Five"—the reticulated giraffe, Grevy's zebra, Somali ostrich, Beisa oryx, and the long-necked gerenuk. As the sun sets, return to the lodge for dinner and an overnight stay in the heart of the reserve.

## **Day 2: Exploring the Banks of the Ewaso Nyiro**

This full day is dedicated to exploring the unique ecosystem of Samburu. You will spend time along the Ewaso Nyiro River,

where the green riverine forest provides a stark contrast to the surrounding desert. This area is the best place to witness elephants bathing and crocodiles basking on the banks. The morning and afternoon drives offer excellent opportunities to track lions and leopards, who often utilize the thick cover near the water to hunt. Between drives, you can relax by the pool at the lodge before heading back out to catch the golden hour light for photography.

### **Day 3: Transition to Ol Pejeta Conservancy**

After an early breakfast, depart Samburu and head south toward the Laikipia plateau to enter the **Ol Pejeta Conservancy**. You will check in at **Sweetwaters Comfort Gardens**, which is strategically located near a popular waterhole. In the afternoon, the itinerary

takes you to the **Sweetwater's Chimpanzee Sanctuary**, the only place in Kenya where these primates can be seen. You will observe the rescued chimps in their naturalistic habitat and learn about the conservation efforts protecting them. End the day with a game drive through the conservancy, which boasts the highest density of predators in the region.

## **Day 4: Rhino Encounters and Return to Nairobi**

The final morning focuses on the conservancy's world-renowned rhino conservation program. You will visit the northern white rhino enclosure to learn about the last survivors of their subspecies and proceed to meet Baraka, the famous blind black rhino, for a close-up educational encounter. Following this, enjoy a final game drive as you head

toward the lodge for a farewell lunch. After a relaxing meal overlooking the plains, begin the scenic drive back to Nairobi, arriving in the late evening to conclude your safari.