

Kenya in the Green Season – Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha and Samburu

16 - 26 May 2025

Report by Paul McDougall

Tour participants Paul McDougall (photographic Guide), Isaac (specialist guide) Peeta (Driver Guide) and James (Driver Guide) with 5 Touch the Wild clients

Summary

Kenya in the rainy, green season is a sight to behold, a more moderate temperature, rains at night and lower vehicle numbers makes a safari at this time of year a very pleasurable experience. Samburu in the green season (which lasts for approximately 6 weeks from mid-April until the end of the May) especially is a treat, so many shades of green with scattered flowers adding pops of colour, with gorgeous blue sky's scattered with large fluffy white clouds, the light is exceptional at this time of year, the wildlife in good condition due to the plentiful supply of food and the backdrops of Samburu impressive as always.

Kenya in the green season is exceptional and great weather, excellent company and amazing fauna and flora made this week one to remember with some of the best photographic opportunities and sightings I have ever had. We saw lions in Lake Nakuru and Samburu, Cheetah in Samburu, White and Black Rhino in Lake Nakuru, all 3 species of giraffe, Samburu's unique 5 species were all seen (Grevy's Zebra, Oryx, Somali Ostrich, Reticulated Giraffe, Gerenuk) and we had some of the most incredible elephant experiences and sightings that I have ever had in Samburu. Add to this some amazing bird sighting's with African Fish Eagles, Pygmy Falcon, Marshall Eagle, Long Crested Eagle, 3 different bee-eaters, 5 different kingfishers, lots of pelicans and a few flamingos, It really was an incredible trip.

We enjoyed very low occupancy of our accommodation throughout and the food was plentiful and extremely good. The two boat trips in Naivasha were brilliant. With great Fish Eagle Images taken from the boat, mating lions in Lake Nakuru were also a highlight as were the Lilac Breasted Rollers defending their nest from 2 Grey Hornbills in fact, each day had something very special and was thoroughly enjoyed for its variety of experiences. Every day was full of activity, varied and very successful photographic opportunities. The group enjoyed being together, viewing great wildlife, learning new photographic techniques and having fun. The safari was a huge success.



Day 1 Saturday 17th May

4 of the group arrived on the 16th in the evening as they had elected to do an optional additional day in Nairobi National Park. So after a late breakfast due to the late arrival and subsequent hotel check in the previous night we left for Nairobi National Park.

Nairobi National Park offers a lot of opportunities to capture unique images of the various species against the Nairobi skyline and as 3 of the group had never visited Africa or photographed any of the wildlife it was a great opportunity to do this. It was also a great opportunity for me to help set up their cameras, go through various settings and techniques so everyone felt comfortable and confident. We stopped at one of the picnic sites to eat our packed lunch and then continued to explore the park. Overall sightings were good with lots of White Rhino although a little distant, we saw lions laying under a bush and so many birds with 3 different sunbirds all photographed in one area and an excellent Little Bee Eater sighting.

All in all it was a good introduction to Kenya and its incredible wildlife and everyone had started the trip well and captured some nice images. We returned to the lovely Weston Hotel for dinner, drinks and a well-deserved rest.



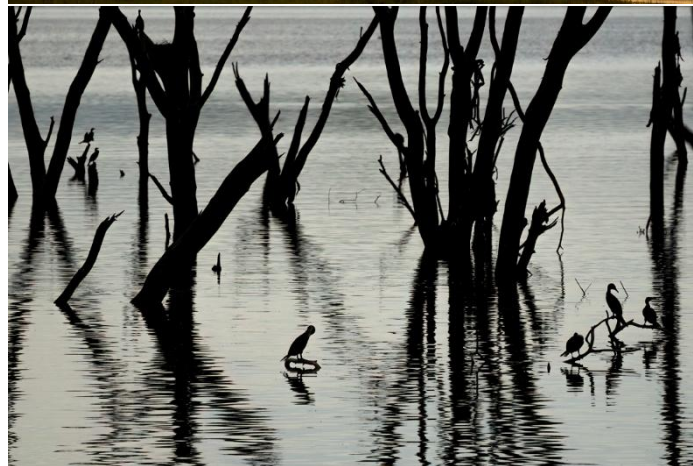


Day 2 Sunday 18th May

With the 5th guest arriving late on the Saturday night we had an early breakfast at 6am. We checked out of the hotel and departed after breakfast. Making our way up to the Top of the Rift Valley Viewpoint where we made a short stop for toilets and to take a few images of the amazing views of the Rift Valley. A few of the guests had a look in the local curio (craft) shops and then we continued to Lake Nakuru. We have 2 vehicles for the trip with every guest getting a row of seats so that they can shoot from both windows with no obstructions, so we split the vehicles with 3 in one and 2 in the vehicle with me so I can then provide hands on in the field tuition. We swapped people around every day so everyone got to spend time with me.

We reached Lake Nakuru at around 10am and as soon as we entered the park the opportunity for images started, we had bee-eaters and lovebirds just inside the gate and were able to capture some images of these, we then saw 3 white rhino in the distance and so went to get closer to them, the 3 disappeared so we started to photograph some of the zebra and buffalo herds. This was a really good opportunity to experiment with camera settings. I encouraged everyone to shoot a mixture of “correct exposures” and then play around with low-key and high-key settings, everyone was surprised at the creativity that could be achieved just by changing a few settings. We also experimented with composition with me encouraging everyone to take a mixture of close up and wider images to show the environment. After a while we saw a Black Rhino out in the open moving towards one of the other roads so we quickly moved and got in to a brilliant position as it approached the road, the rhino was wanting to move from one thicket to another but due to the presence of the buffalo herds it was looking for a safe place to cross, this gave us the opportunity to capture some great behavioural shots as it stopped and paused to sniff the air. What a brilliant start to our time in Lake Nakuru and it was one of the best Black Rhino sightings I have ever had. After the rhino we stopped to eat our packed lunch, we then continued to look for pelicans in the dead trees, we captured some very unique images of the pelicans swimming through these trees and also saw many other birds including Fish Eagles locking talons mid-air. We then proceeded to drive around the lake and it was nonstop photography action with so many great opportunities. We spent some time at the causeway and photographed the pelicans, storks and a small group of flamingos. We then made our way towards our lodge, as we were driving along we saw a few vehicles stopped in the road, there were lions ahead, a male and female mating couple. Wow. We knew if we waited then we would be able to witness the mating behaviour and so after Peeta and James working hard to get both vehicles in a good position we sat and waited, whilst waiting we had the opportunity to shoot some portrait images of both the male and female lion, after around 20 minutes the lioness

stood up and the male dutifully followed her, she then positioned herself perfectly for all of us to photograph the mating pair. Some of my guests had said they particularly were interested in capturing some behaviour shots, and this was a fantastic opportunity to do this, not only was the position good but the light and the background simply stunning, especially after adjusting the white balance settings in camera. After the lions we continued to Sopa lodge where we checked in and then had dinner and a few drinks whilst reflecting on the day. What a brilliant start to the safari with everyone excited about what they had seen and also the different techniques that they had been able to try.





Day 3 Monday 19th May

After another 6am breakfast we left for what was supposed to be a short game drive enroute to the gate. This was due to the very long drive that we had to reach Samburu National Reserve in the North of Kenya. It was very evident after only half an hour that this wouldn't be a short drive, we came across a herd of Rothschilds Giraffe, that was one of the targets for the morning because the previous day we had only got distant shots, we got some lovely images of the

giraffe with really nice backdrops, we then had 3 White Rhino and a herd of zebra in beautiful light. After all of this we got images of a Long-Crested Eagle, more rhino, zebra rolling around in the dust, more pelicans, herds of buffalo and lots of smaller birds, we eventually reached the gate at just after 10:20am. The drive North to Samburu is quite spectacular and it is lovely to see my guests really taking an interest in the Kenyan Culture and people, everyone was fascinated to see how many people could fit on one motorbike and I think that the record was 4. Kenya is an incredibly beautiful country with diverse and different landscapes and we could see the landscape changing as we got further north, we climbed to 8000ft on the route with the temperature changing accordingly. We stopped for a late lunch just outside Nanyuki. You could immediately feel the temperature change as we started to descend, and after a fuel stop in Isiolo everyone commented on how hot it was getting, as we left Isiolo we started to see the landscape become flatter and the heat increased, we started to see camels rather than cows and the tribes that live in the North of Kenya are different adding a splash of colour in to the landscape. This area is usually very dry and barren with very little vegetation, but we were there in the beautiful green season with so many different hues of green with pops of colour in the landscape. Green Season is special in Samburu and the opportunity for images is incredible. We reached the gate at around 5pm and then knew that we would have to drive straight to the lodge and only stop for anything "spectacular". Within minutes of entering the reserve we had seen, Elephant, Gerenuk, Oryx and Grevy's Zebra, but we kept to very minimal stops as the light was fading and we needed to reach the lodge. A little further along the main road we had a very unusual sighting of a Puff Adder crossing the road, the 2 in my vehicle were able to capture some images of it before it disappeared in to the bushes, shortly after this we had 3 Black Backed Jackal on the road and one of them appeared to be eating a small snake with just the tail sticking out of its mouth. Wow. Samburu always throws up surprises and there were 2 unusual sightings straight away. We continued to the lodge passing giraffe, elephants and lots of birds with me explaining that we would have lots of opportunities to see and photograph these animals over the next few days. We reached the lodge at 6:30pm. Everyone was hot and tired and dusty but relieved to be at the lodge and not have to unpack or move for a few days as Sopa Samburu would be our home for the next 6 nights. After dinner at 8pm everyone retired to bed ready for the next day in Samburu.

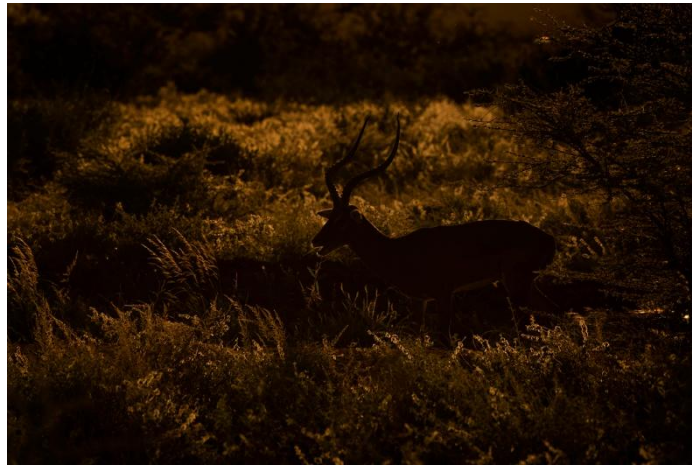




Day 4 Tuesday 20th May

After a good night's rest we met for coffee and tea at 5:45am. We left the lodge at around 6am. Just before sunrise. The goal for the morning was to try and capture images of subjects backlit by the sun or silhouetted against the sky line as well as using the beautiful golden light to shoot with the sun behind us. As the sun rises and sets in Samburu during the green season the vegetation takes on a silver colour which turns to gold as the sun increases in intensity. The week before on my private trip we couldn't get this shot, either the light wasn't quite right or the subject wasn't quite in the right place, but no more than 5 minutes from the lodge we encountered a large herd of Reticulated Giraffe, when we found them they were on the wrong side for backlit images but as the sun started to rise we got some lovely images in golden light with stunning mountain backdrops, then the herd started to move and walked right in front of the sun, giving us the opportunity to achieve backlit images and silhouettes. WOW what a start to the day, perfect light and a great opportunity for my guests to try out some different techniques and use light in different ways. We spent over an hour with the giraffe and just as we were about to leave I spotted a male impala in the longer grass, this was also backlit so we quickly moved in to position and were able to get some lovely images of the Impala before it moved away. We then continued on our morning drive, we were able to photograph elephants and all kinds of different birds throughout the morning, but one of the highlights was shooting some of the antelope very under exposed – creating almost black backgrounds and just using the highlights of the sun on the horns to show the form and subtle shape of the animals. We stopped for a bush breakfast and then returned to the lodge for a well-deserved rest. During the rest period I showed some of the group how to process their images and gave feedback on some of the images taken. We went back out again at 3:30pm and the afternoon proved relatively

quiet, there was still plenty of time to experiment and use different creative techniques though. Late on we picked up 2 lions that looked like they would hunt, but by then the light had virtually disappeared and so we returned to Sopa Lodge. We met for drinks and then had a lovely buffet dinner.







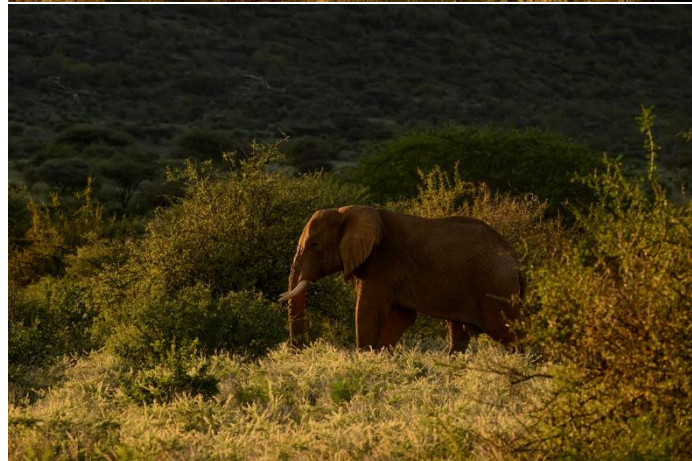
Day 4 Wednesday 21st May

After the success of yesterday we elected to do the same plan. We again met for coffee and tea at 5:45am and left shortly after. The focus was the same in the morning, some of the group were hoping to get backlit zebra shots and some wanted elephant. Again after only just leaving the lodge we found a suitable subject to photograph, this time an elephant. It was in the wrong position for the rising sun, but we hoped that it would make its way to the right position as the sun came up above the hills, we watched and waited, at one point the elephant was in the right place but the sun hadn't risen enough, then it moved away, we thought we had lost the opportunity but we stayed back and continued to watch and hope. After some time the sun came up above the hill and the elephant started to walk towards the road, it stopped to feed in an open area that was bathed in beautiful golden light, the grass and vegetation lit in golds and silvers and oranges. It was stunning!!! But the elephant hadn't finished there it walked to the road and picked up some dust and threw it over its back, the light was perfect to show up the backlit dust and the scene was incredible. What a moment!

We continued on and next came across 3 cheetah. When we initially found them the light wasn't the best but we were able to capture a through portrait images, they then started to walk through the longer grass out in the open. Everyone got some images and it was a good sighting. We headed down towards the river to look for elephants and we were rewarded quickly with a large herd in the Doum Palm Trees. There was lots of great opportunities to capture the elephants scratching against the trees and interacting with each other. Some of the group even got mating elephants!! We stopped for a bush breakfast and then decided to head back to the lodge as it was already starting to get hot. On the way we came across 2 young male Reticulated Giraffe that were necking (where they look like they are dancing with intertwined necks and slapping the side of each other with their heads). We used different directions of light to create some different images with my favourite ones being where the sun came in from the side and lit the giraffe and the flowers and by underexposing really popped against the dark background. After the giraffe we returned to the lodge. Some of the group rested out of the heat, some went for a swim and some downloaded images. After a lovely buffet lunch we went for our afternoon drive again at 3:30pm.

Some vehicles had found lions in the morning so the plan was to go and look for them. After around an hour of searching we found them resting in the long grass, then one by one they came out of the grass and walked across an open area of light grass that was beautiful in the golden sunlight. They then made their way to a large bush and all laid down in the shade. It was then a waiting game, we knew as it got cooler that they would move so after a brief discussion we

decided to stay and wait to see if we could get them up and walking or interacting with each other. Whilst waiting for them to move we had the chance to experiment with some different techniques and tried some ICM images and some zoom bursts. At around 6pm the lions started to move, where I had asked Peeta to position our vehicle was perfect as they walked directly towards us so we had a great opportunity to capture some lovely head on portraits as they walked through the grass, the other vehicle had them from a side angle and got some lovely shots of the group standing and walking. The lions walked along the road for a short distance before disappearing into the distance. A brilliant way to end a day. We returned to the lodge once again with big smiles and lots of images. After another buffet dinner with lots of delicious options everyone retired to their rooms early.











Day 5 Thursday 22nd May

We again elected to do the same plan as we had done for the previous 2 days. Usually Samburu in the green season is not as hot with cloudy sky's and comfortable temperatures of low to mid 20 degrees. But it was unseasonably hot with no rain storms to break up the heat, In the middle of the day the temperatures were in the low 30's so it seemed sensible to return to the lodge and sit out the hottest period of the day.

The morning in terms of the previous 2 days was quieter. We didn't get lucky with the sunrise and generally it was a quiet morning. We elected to spend some time searching the rock faces for leopards but had no success. When you don't have the big species it gives you an amazing opportunity to experiment and challenge yourself to photograph common subjects in different ways and that is what we tried to do, we used high-key to great effect and I explained to everyone how to process these images and turn them in to black and white for maximum effect. We did have nice sightings of elephant and giraffe but by then the sun was already pretty high, so after breakfast we stopped at one of the trees that was full of weaver nests and got some nice images of the birds coming in and out of the nests. We returned to the lodge to relax and sit out the heat of the middle of the day. Some of the group spent some time doing macro photography in the lodge grounds and some went looking for birds. We went out again at 3:30pm and went to look for leopard in a different area, again we were unlucky. It was again looking like it would be a quiet afternoon until the other vehicle spotted a male Kudu. Kudu males are some of the most impressive antelopes in Kenya and have incredible horns. They can be found in good numbers in Samburu but they are not common. We photographed the Kudu from a distance as it moved and fed, it was heading back up in to the hills so we took a different road and hoped that we may get

it crossing, the sun was also getting lower in the sky and there may be an opportunity to photograph it backlit in the beautiful golden light. Once again on this trip things seemed to just fall in to place and the Kudu continued to come closer and eventually crossed the road in front of us, it then walked out in to the open in an area lit by the sun – perfect and some of the best Kudu images I think you will ever see were taken here. After the excitement of the Kudu we started to head back, we went through an area that we knew was the territory of a pair of Pygmy Falcons, these are one of my favourite birds to see and photograph. We found them sat in the open on a dead tree with a beautiful clear background. Usually you get them sat close to the road in acacia trees against the sky so this was a special treat, we took some images of them sat together and then to our surprise they mated in front of us, another incredible opportunity to capture some unique behaviour. After we left the Pygmy Falcons we returned to the lodge. In the evening it was important to highlight what we had seen that day, nobody was disappointed and everyone had added some new species and different techniques to their Samburu portfolio. After dinner some people stayed in the bar to use the lodge Wi-Fi but most retired to their room to sleep early.







Day 6 Friday 23rd May

Little did we know when we left the lodge in the morning that we were about to have one of the best days that I have ever had in Samburu. We wanted to try and focus on getting Grevy's Zebra backlit with the early sun. So we headed straight down to the more open areas, we were just getting to the stage before the sun was too high when I saw a group of gazelles, not zebra but they would make good subjects with the sun behind in the long grass. As we were approaching the gazelles I saw one loan male Grevy's Zebra, we now had a chance of getting it backlit as well as the gazelles, we spent the next hour starting with backlit images and then repositioning to do some darker low key images with the sun coming in from the side and everyone achieved some stunning results. We then headed to the river as some of the group wanted to try and get more images of elephants in the water. As we were driving towards the river I noticed a huge herd of

elephants spread out in a line walking towards the river, this was the chance we had been waiting for, we quickly drove to the other side of the herd so the sun was behind us and just made it in to position the other vehicle who were slightly behind had to shoot in to the sun as the elephants had now reached the road. We were able to capture images of all of the herd walking in front of the mountains spread out in a line, after the herd had crossed the river the other vehicle joined us and we watched as the elephants walked again in a line across the sand to drink in the river. We shot some wide images to show the herd and the river and the mountains with Doum Palms either side – an iconic Samburu shot. Once all of the elephants were at the river we made our way closer and were able to get images of them drinking and playing in the water, most of the group tried some slow shutter speed and panning images to highlight the movement of the elephants. What a successful morning so far. After we left the elephants we drove along the main road to look for the cheetah as they had been sighted early in the morning. We stopped to photograph a Lilac Breasted Roller on a Doum Palm Tree which was one of the birds the group wanted to photograph. It turned out that there were 2 of them. After watching them for a while I noticed that one kept going to the side of the tree, we moved the vehicle and sure enough they had a nest there and although we didn't see the young the adult bird kept going in to the nest hole. We were able to capture some lovely images of them, and then after a while the rollers got agitated and started making a lot of noise. Then 2 African Grey Hornbill appeared, It was obvious that the Hornbills were going to attempt to get at the nest and for the next 20 minutes we witnessed the rollers frantically defending their nest and dive bombing the hornbills – eventually the rollers won and relative calm returned to the tree. It was incredible to witness this behaviour and everyone got some stunning images of the Rollers defending their nest. We then decided it was time to have some breakfast, so we started to look for a suitable place to stop, but enroute the cheetahs were radioed in, so we made our way to where they were seen, they had just killed a Dik Dik. The 3 cheetahs are pretty much full grown cubs and the mother is trying to get them to leave her and go off on their own, but they are still quite clingy. It was evident as we got closer that all of the vehicles in the reserve were at this location – now in low season all of the vehicles numbered only 6, but where the cheetah were made it quite hard to get any images. We managed a few due to good vehicle positioning and luck, but decided to go and have breakfast and come back. We had a bush breakfast again by the river and it was a lovely cool breeze. We returned to the cheetah who were sleeping. As it was beginning to get very hot we returned to the lodge. Little did we know what our afternoon drive would provide. Some of the group used the pool to cool down whilst others relaxed in their rooms. I looked through images with some of the group who wanted feedback. At 3:30pm we went out again with the first objective to look for leopard as it had still eluded us all week. Again we had no luck despite driving through several leopard territories where we had seen leopard before. We did come across a lovely male Gerenuk that stood on its back legs to feed on an acacia tree. Another iconic shot that you always try to get in Samburu. It is particularly hard in the green season as there is a lot of vegetation for them to eat so therefore they don't need to feed on the higher vegetation, so to get it feeding like this was a real treat.

The next part of the afternoon was relatively quiet until we came across a cheetah, this was the mother and we were able to get some nice environmental shots of her walking, we soon lost her as she decided to move away from the road, we continued to see if we could find the 3 young ones. We eventually did near one of the main roads sat in the open, we were able to pick different images that we wanted and just move the vehicle dependent on the light and the images. After a while the 3 moved across the road and headed towards the river, we knew they would probably drink, but the area they were going was quite difficult to get to. We went after a

lot of the vehicles had moved and it was clear that it was going to be tough to get anything, all 3 cheetahs were lined up on the riverbank with the sun behind them and the golden reflections on the water. The perfect silhouette image. Eventually the other vehicle was able to get a position and started to get some images, we managed to get a position so my 2 guests could shoot through a small gap between 2 vehicles. There was no position for me to shoot and so I just made sure everyone had the right settings to capture what I knew would be an outstanding cheetah image. After around 5 minutes the vehicle in front of us surprisingly elected to move, we now had an incredible position and were able to get some truly incredible cheetah images. Some silhouettes, some high key, some backlit and some low key. All in beautiful golden light. The cheetah eventually moved down to the edge of the water to drink and our other vehicle again through great positioning were able to capture some images of them drinking. They then got up and left and returned to the road, we followed to the road and then as it was late made our way back to the lodge. What a wonderful way to end one of the best days I have ever had in Samburu (I have been visiting pretty much every year for 25 years). Everyone was excited and everyone was very happy with their images. After another lovely buffet dinner (nobody will ever lose weight on these trips) some people again sat in the bar and caught up on emails etc and then went to bed early.











Day 7 Saturday 24th May

Our last full day in Samburu and everyone was excited to see what it would bring. We had pretty much achieved the wish list of everyone on the trip and exceeded it with some unique sightings, but leopard had still escaped us. We decided to go and look for subjects to photograph backlit again but we struggled to find anything. I then spotted a Marshall Eagle sat in a tree, we shot a few images from a distance and then got closer. After everyone had taken "safe" images of this impressive bird I moved the vehicles so we could shoot it as a silhouette against the rising sun, It turned out to be a beautiful image and another great addition to everyone's Samburu portfolio. After the eagle we went towards the river to look for crocodiles or possibly elephants bathing, we managed to get a few elephants and giraffe and then we heard on the radio that a leopard had been seen, we started to make our way towards this area, on the way we had excellent sighting of Kori Bustard catching insects and we were able to get it throwing grasshoppers in the air and catching them in its beak, we then had Goshawk in a great position so stopped for them too, we reached the area where the leopard had been seen and even vehicles that had raced past us had not seen it. It had apparently gone back up in to the hills. We then had our last bush breakfast of the trip before continuing our leopard search on the way back to the lodge. As we were back a little earlier than usual I again offered any support on post processing or image critiques, but on this occasion everyone elected to go and start packing and relax in their rooms. After lunch we were back out again at 3:30pm. We again drove down a valley looking for leopard and again had no success. As we reached the bottom and the main road we came across a large herd of elephants with lots of young babies, as we had seen so many elephants and taken so many images, it wasn't necessarily what we were looking for this afternoon, but I am so glad that we stopped. The next hour was one of the best elephant encounters I have had anywhere. We were treated to views of the elephants eating, play fighting, even the very young babies bravely showed themselves and they treated the whole group to some of the best Elephant Images that they had got on the whole trip. The other vehicle elected to move and look in the river to see if any were drinking and got some brilliant images of a huge bull elephant and some younger males fighting. We stayed where we were and got images of the babies playing and then an incredible opportunity when a group of elephants walked towards us in a line with young ones and all different ages and just stopped and looked at us. It was a great photo opportunity. After a while we left the elephants and made our way back along the river planning to check one last place for leopard, along the way we got Pin Tailed Wydah and Long Crested Eagle and some vultures. It was then that we saw 2 cheetahs so we went to the cheetah, got a great position with few vehicles around and sat and watched. Everyone really wanted to get an interaction or greeting shot so we decided to wait as the light was excellent and the backgrounds beautiful. After around 15 minutes the one cheetah got up and stretched and made its way to the other they then mutually groomed and licked each other before cuddling up together. What a way to end our time in Samburu.

That evening we had our last meal in Samburu Sopa Lodge who had looked after us so well throughout the week, the staff brought a cake out and sang to us which was lovely and were grateful that we had stayed for 6 nights. We were grateful that we had stayed for 6 nights as we had just had some of the best days of photography ever in a stunning location. After dinner some of the group had a drink in the bar whilst others went to finish packing ready for us leaving the next morning.









Day 8 Sunday 25th May

After breakfast at 6am we checked out of the lodge and made our way to the gate. The group had decided to do the optional Samburu Village visit so we wanted to get there so that they had some time at the village, we would have stopped if there were any opportunities for more images but it was a quiet drive. The group enjoyed their village visit and supported the local community by buying some souvenirs. We then left Samburu bidding it a very fond farewell and started our long journey to Lake Naivasha. Everyone was tired with the early starts and the constant photographic opportunities and the heat so most people slept during the long journey. We had a toilet stop at the equator and decided that we would eat our lunch in the vehicle rather than stop. This would give us slightly longer in Lake Naivasha. We reached Elsamere Conservation Centre at around 3pm and checked in. The group then had some time to explore the grounds and photograph the many birds and the incredible colobus monkeys. At 4:30 we went on our first boat trip on Lake Naivasha, the primary focus was to photograph the African Fish Eagle. On the boat trip the guides throw freshly caught fish out for the eagle and you can capture some dramatic images of them swooping down for the fish. The number of fish that can be given to the eagles is closely controlled and as we had 2 boats we had 6 fish, so 6 attempts to catch the dive. For anyone who has never done this before it is challenging, the eagles are close and they come down quite fast, but by the end everyone had got at least one image that they were happy with. We also got some lovely opportunities to photograph Pied Kingfisher, Hippo and other water birds. We returned to the lodge for dinner at 7:30pm. Everyone decided to go to their rooms after dinner and sleep early.



Day 9 Monday 26th May

The original plan was to spend the day in Lake Naivasha and then return to Nairobi for an overnight but due to 4 of the group having their flights moved forward for a day we planned to leave Naivasha just after lunch. In the morning we went on a 7am boat trip to try for the Eagles again, this time the light was much better and as everyone had a practice run the day before the whole group got some fantastic images, some of the group tried panning the eagle (slow shutter speed) as it came down, incredibly difficult to do but a technique we had worked on throughout the week. On this trip we saw loads more Pied Kingfisher, Giant Kingfisher and lots of other birds. We returned for breakfast at 9am. After breakfast the group had some free time to do what they wanted, so some spent some time with the Colobus Monkeys and some did Macro and some photographed the many different bird species and some did all 3. We had an early lunch

at 12 and then left at 1pm for the shorter drive to Nairobi. We reached the Weston Hotel at around 3pm. The 4 that were leaving for the airport shortly after used the rooms to repack and freshen up. We then had one last early dinner at 5pm where everyone shared their trip highlights and what they had learnt photographically. We then left for the airport and said our goodbyes. I returned to the hotel where I would spend another 2 nights. I had a drink with the one remaining guest before going for an early night.





Day 10 Tuesday 27th May.

With most of the group leaving the night before the one remaining guest decided to do Nairobi National Park and then transferred straight to the airport.

This Samburu Trip is one of the best I have ever done. The wildlife sightings were superb throughout, every day every person got some outstanding images. The light during the green season and the backdrops and colours are spectacular. But the wild can only do so much it takes a good group to make the most of what they were seeing and that is most definitely what we had on this trip. I have a creative and different approach to photography and I am constantly trying new things with light and camera settings and when you have a group that are prepared to trust you and follow your guidance to try things out of their comfort zone, that is when you come home from a photographic safari with a truly incredible portfolio of images.

If you are interested in joining me on next years trip then get in touch.



My amazing Kenyan Team – Isaac (specialist guide), Peeta and James (Driver Guides)



My brilliant guests – Kenny, Elaine, Margaret, Alan and Mark

