

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

2 - 12 May 2026

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

There is something quietly magical about arriving in Samburu during the green season. In May, when much of northern Kenya has been refreshed by the long rains, this remote reserve sheds its usual dusty, sun-bleached palette and reveals a softer, more vibrant side. The transformation is striking—an arid wilderness reborn into a lush, living canvas of green.

This is not the classic postcard version of a safari. It is something richer, more atmospheric, and deeply rewarding for those willing to embrace the rhythm of the season.

Samburu lies in Kenya's semi-arid north, shaped by the life-giving Ewaso Nyiro River, which snakes through the reserve and supports its wildlife.

In May, part of the long rainy season, the change is dramatic. Vegetation flourishes, wildflowers bloom, and the river runs fuller, bringing a sense of renewal to the landscape. The once sparse plains are covered in green, creating a striking contrast to Samburu's rugged hills and rocky outcrops.

Afternoon showers are common, often arriving in short bursts before clearing to reveal bright skies and golden light. These shifting conditions give the reserve a cinematic quality—storm clouds rolling across the horizon, followed by warm sunlight illuminating the plains.

May falls squarely in Samburu's low season, which means one thing above all: solitude.

Unlike the peak months when safari vehicles cluster around sightings, the green season offers space and stillness. Lodges are quieter, game drives feel more intimate, and wildlife encounters often unfold without interruption.

For many travellers, this sense of exclusivity becomes the defining highlight. You are not simply observing nature—you feel part of it.

While the dry season is often considered best for spotting animals, Samburu in May still offers remarkable wildlife experiences—just in a different way.

With water more widely available, animals spread out across the reserve, which can make sightings less predictable. But this also means you encounter wildlife in richer, more natural behaviours, moving through newly green habitats and interacting in dynamic ways.

Samburu is famous for its unique "Special Five," species not commonly seen elsewhere in Kenya:

- Grevy's zebra
- Reticulated giraffe
- Beisa oryx
- Gerenuk
- Somali ostrich

These animals, adapted to the region's harsh conditions, are still present year-round, and spotting them against a lush green backdrop makes for particularly striking photography.

For photographers, May may be one of the most compelling times to visit Samburu.

The rains wash dust from the air, creating crisp visibility and enhancing colours across the landscape. Dramatic skies—billowing clouds, sudden sunshine, and occasional rainbows—add depth and mood to every scene.

The light, softer than in the dry season, lends itself to powerful imagery. Reflections in swollen rivers and vibrant green backgrounds elevate even familiar wildlife sightings into something extraordinary.

A safari in Samburu during the green season is not about ticking off animal sightings—it is about immersion.

It is about:

- Experiencing a quieter, more intimate version of the wild
- Witnessing landscapes at their most vibrant
- Capturing dramatic, ever-changing scenery
- Enjoying exceptional value and fewer crowds

Above all, it offers a chance to see Samburu as a living, breathing ecosystem in transition—rich with life, colour, and atmosphere.

Samburu in the green season was once again amazing and we enjoyed great warm weather, incredible sightings, excellent company and amazing fauna and flora which 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, Cheetah in Samburu, we had one of the best leopard sightings I have ever had 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 incredible elephant experiences and sightings in Samburu. Add to this some amazing bird sightings with African Fish Eagles, Pygmy Falcon, Marshall Eagle, Long Crested Eagle, 5 different bee-eaters, 5 different kingfishers, lots of pelicans and a few flamingos, it really was a great 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, the leopard and cheetah in Samburu were also a highlight as were the numerous weavers building their nests 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 2nd May

Saturday was the arrival day. Two of the group had already been with me on a Private Safari to Maasai Mara and so had been in Kenya for a week but the other three arrived late on Saturday evening. Everyone rested as much as they could after long flights and long safaris in preparation for the start of the trip the next day.

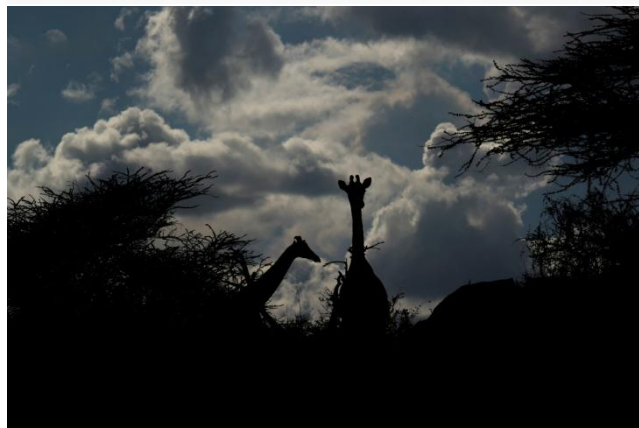
We stayed at the lovely Weston Hotel and were well looked after by the lovely staff.

Day 2 Sunday 3rd May

We had an early breakfast at 6:30am. We checked out of the hotel and departed after breakfast. Making our way out of Nairobi we headed North. We stopped enroute to use the toilets and to have a short break. A few of the guests had a look in the local curio (craft) shops and then we continued to Nanyuki. 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.

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 reached Nanyuki at around 12pm where we stopped at Java House for lunch. After lunch we continued our drive North. 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 the colourful and at time comical shop signs. As we left Nanyuki you could immediately feel the temperature change as we started to descend, and as we reached 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 further, 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 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. We reached Samburu at around 3:30pm and the plan was to do a short drive enroute to the lodge. As we entered the reserve, we started to see many different animals and birds straight away. We saw Gerenuk, Vulturine Guinea fowl and Reticulated Giraffe. Then

we saw a large herd of elephants which came close to the road. All of these were good sightings but also gave us the opportunity to try some different techniques including high-key and some ICM images. I always try to teach different techniques and encourage my guests to try different things so that they go home with a varied portfolio of images and not just the typical snapshots. We then got word on the radio that a cheetah with two cubs had been seen so we made our way to that area, as we got to the area where the cheetah had been seen we saw the mother sat in the grass. Our other vehicle caught a brief glimpse of the two cubs. We sat and watched the mother cheetah as she came through the grass. There were a small herd of Thompsons Gazelle not far away and we thought that she might hunt so we positioned ourselves and waited. After a while she came out of the grass and stalked towards our vehicle. She then used the front of our vehicle as cover and positioned herself there. This meant we now could not move, so everyone else had a great view of the cheetah but we could not see her. After a while she moved and went and used the grass as cover, she lay flat on the ground and as the light started to fade, she started to disappear showing how well her spots can camouflage her, especially when the light is lower. We had to leave her as it was getting dark and we had to make it to the lodge for a specific time. We continued our journey to the lodge. We arrived at Sopa Lodge and checked in. Sopa Samburu is like a home from home for me. I have stayed there many times, and the staff are so friendly and welcoming. After being showed to our rooms everyone unpacked and showered before meeting in the bar for dinner. We had a delicious meal and then all had an early night after a very long and exciting day.







Day 3 Monday 4th May

After a good night's rest we met for coffee and tea at 5:30am. We left the lodge at around 5:45am. Just before sunrise. The goal for the morning was to try and capture images of subjects backlit by the sun or silhouetted against the skyline 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 plan was a good one, but it started slowly, but we did eventually find a herd of elephants with a couple of them just breaking the skyline in a slight gap. One also stopped to scratch on the termite mound. We realised that the elephants were moving to an area that would be impossible to get the shots that we wanted so we went to look for something else to photograph. We eventually found an oryx which looked beautiful in the long grass and then a bit later when the sun was higher some Grant's Gazelle. For the Gazelle we wanted the sun from the side so we could play about with the light and shadows and were able to create some interesting images in this way. We then decided to go and look for other things, and we were fortunate to find a leopard on top of some rocks. It was resting and after a while it got up and started to come down the rocks. It then walked through the grassland, it was actively hunting and looking for gazelle young that had been left behind by the parents. There was a close escape for one young gazelle, but the leopard was unlucky in its efforts. We had the leopard for a couple of hours in total and it was a fantastic sighting with lots of great photo opportunities in some lovely light. Eventually the leopard walked quite a distance away and so we left it and went to have breakfast. After breakfast we found a few elephants in nice light and then we made our way back to the lodge. It was already starting to get extremely hot. On the way back we found some kudu resting under a tree. Animals in the shade make great high key black and white images so we took a few of these using this technique. The afternoon was spent at the lodge. Some people relaxed, some used the pool and some spent time processing and looking at images. We left the lodge for our afternoon drive at 2:30pm. It was still hot, but we wanted to make the most of our time in Samburu. We started off with trying to photograph a Goshawk flying from a tree, but the Goshawk was reluctant to fly, we waited and waited and waited and then eventually it did fly so everyone was able to capture images of this graceful bird in flight. We continued on and the other vehicle followed. They had two pygmy falcons with one feeding on a lizard. That was a sighting I would have loved to have seen myself, but sometimes you cannot have it all. We then found another Goshawk. We took a few images as the background was lovely and it was a good sighting to try some ICM images but on this occasion, we did not wait for it to fly. We were driving on one of the roads next to a dry riverbed. This area is where the leopard was heading in the morning and is a favourite place for this leopard. Our driver Peeta suddenly stopped and said "leopard." We looked and saw nothing. He then explained it was laying on a dead tree in the riverbed. We all eventually found it and were able to capture some lovely images of it relaxing. Where it was with the colours and tones in the landscape was ideal for a zoom burst which I went through with the people in my vehicle. Eventually the other vehicle joined us, and we were all able to get some nice views. The other vehicle went on the other side of the river to see whether the light was better. After a while we joined them. We sat watching the leopard when it came down from the tree and started to walk. It then suddenly crouched and started to stalk. It then in a split second ran and jumped in the air. It had tried to catch a vulturine guinea fowl. Unfortunately, most of us were using a lens that was too long so we were not able to capture this sequence, however one of my guests captured a stunning image of the leopard jumping. After its failed attempt, the leopard walked out of the riverbed and walked straight towards our vehicle. It made for some nice eye level images of the leopard looking straight into the camera.

The leopard then walked through the grassland pausing briefly to sit on a termite mound. It was already starting to get dark, so we started our journey back. We had a great sighting of a family of mongoose on a termite mound and despite the light being low we were able to capture a few images including some of a small baby. We returned to the lodge incredibly happy. We met for drinks and then had a lovely buffet dinner.















Day 4 Tuesday 5th May

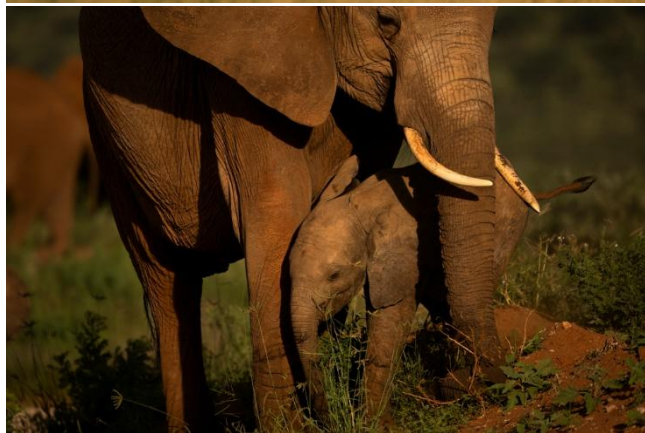
Overnight we had all heard lions near to where we were staying. During the green season, the lions tend to roam further away from the river and therefore can be hard to see unless the prides are in the core area. But we hoped that this would be the day we may see them. So that was one of the goals of the day.

After the success of yesterday we elected to start with the same plan. We again met for coffee and tea at 5:30am and left shortly after. The focus was the same in the morning. We started to look for suitable subjects. It was again a tough morning. The light was amazing, but we could not find anything to photograph as a silhouette so we then started to look for subjects that we could photograph backlit. We again struggled but eventually found some gerenuk which made great subjects in the golden grass. After this it was relatively quiet, but we did have some lovely opportunities to photograph elephants with a large herd in the river which everyone was pleased with. We decided to then drive along the river to look for birds in the shade of the trees with a particular focus on bee-eaters. We were fortunate to have some nice sightings of cinnamon chested bee-eaters which were busy catching insects. We also saw a Pin Tailed Wydah which for once stayed still long enough to take some images. Whilst driving along the river we came across an African Fish Eagle which was sat in a tree eating a monitor lizard. We were able to get relatively close to it and so spent a lot of time there. Everyone got some nice images of it eating the lizard and then eventually it flew off. Whilst watching the eagle we were also treated to some nice views of a Red and Yellow Barbet which is another Samburu favourite but also another one which is tough to photograph. We then had a bush breakfast underneath some acacia trees. Whilst having breakfast a Marshall eagle flew into a Doum Palm Tree close to us. So after

breakfast we went to have a closer look at that. The rest of the morning was quite uneventful, so we returned to the lodge for lunch.

We again left for our afternoon drive at 2:30pm. We decided to focus on an area which can be good for striped hyena. It was also towards where the lions were coming from and this is one of the areas that we had found them in several times the previous year and it is also good for birds as the backgrounds tend to be excellent. It started well with a lovely Pygmy Falcon Sighting. We then watched some masked weavers building a nest. Otherwise, it was a quiet afternoon. Just before we started to head back, we came across some yellow billed hornbills that were flying from a tree to a termite mound and were eating termites. This was interesting to watch and was a fantastic opportunity to practice panning. We then found some Red Billed Hornbills. The male was busy bringing caterpillars for the female to eat, unfortunately she did not seem impressed and did not want to take the offered gift, so the male ate the caterpillar and flew off which annoyed the female quite a lot. It was very comical to watch. We made our way back to the lodge. We met for drinks and then tonight has an a la carte dinner as there were very few people staying at the lodge.













Day 5 Wednesday 6th May

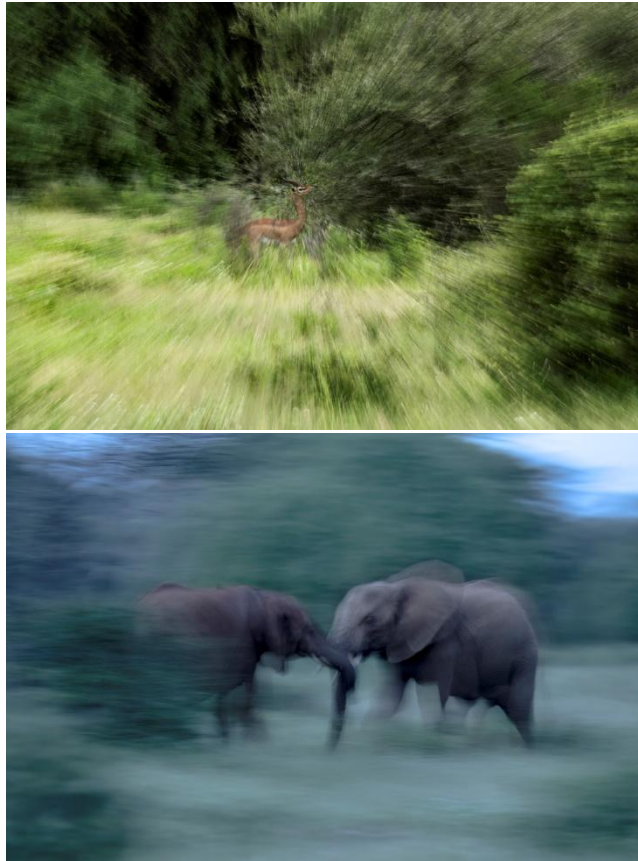
Overnight we had spoken to the Rangers to see what the latest status was with the lions. Nobody had seen them although judging by the sounds from Monday night they were coming towards us rather than moving away. We again elected to do the same plan as we had done for the previous 2 days.

The morning in terms of the previous 2 days was quieter. We really struggled to find anything in suitable for sunrise shots. We do not usually split the vehicles we usually follow the same route, but as we were struggling, we went in separate directions. My vehicle found some young elephants that were play fighting. It was not perfect photographically, but it was ok. The other vehicle found oryx and got some lovely images in the golden grass. After the young elephants we managed to get a lovely image of the elephants walking in front of Mount Kenya which was quite unique We then headed towards the river to try and find the cheetah from the first day. We had no success finding the cheetah, but we did spend some time with some weaver's nest building in a tree close to the road. We then found a Somali Bee-eater which was a nice find. The rest of the morning was quiet and so we headed back to the lodge. As we got back a little earlier and it was hot 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 2:30pm and went to look for leopard in a different area, again we were unlucky. This area of Samburu either delivers something magical – we have had wild dog there, caracal and striped hyena in the past or it delivers nothing but a peaceful beautiful drive, which also should not be underappreciated. We saw Pygmy Falcon, Secretary Bird, Elephants, Kudu and lots of impala and gerenuk. Overall though we did not find

the main species we were looking for. The Gerenuk was an opportunity to try some different techniques, and we practiced zoom bursts when it stood up on its back legs. We started to head back to the lodge as the light faded, we found a herd of elephants that were active and quite noisy, so we sat with them and soaked up the sounds of another beautiful day in Samburu. I always try to ensure that my trips are not just about images but about the experience of a location as well and this evening was about that. I did take one slow shutter speed of two elephants pushing each other which was something a little different, but we returned to the lodge just as it was getting dark. In the evening, we met for drinks and discussed the day, even though it was a quieter day everyone still got some different and nice images and were pleased that they had added something different 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.







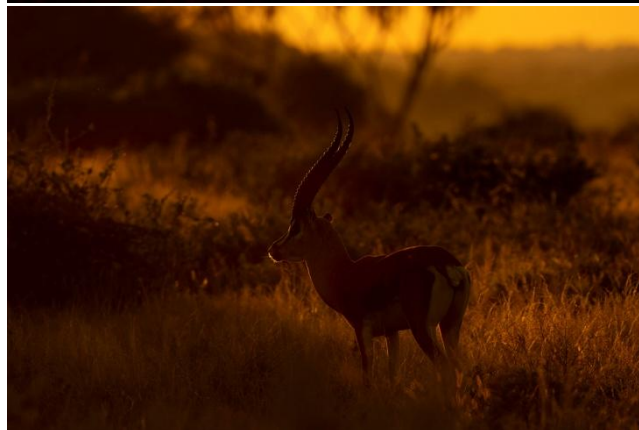
Thursday 7th May

We still had no updates on the lions. We decided that today we would visit the general areas that they favoured if they were in the core areas of the reserve.

Once again, we set off early looking for subjects to photograph with the sun. This time we were rewarded with a beautiful male Grants Gazelle with the sun rising in the background. This gave us the opportunity to shoot this scene in several different ways trying out different settings and exposures. This was a great start to the day, and everyone captured some of their best early morning images from this sighting. We then found some Gerenuk in beautiful light and by positioning the vehicle in a certain place were able to use the vegetation to create some interesting effects and portraits. We then decided to set some time aside to capture some images of the White-Throated Bee-eaters. We had seen lots of these stunning birds, but we wanted to try and get images of them catching insects and actively hunting. So, we spent an hour with a couple of bee-eaters that were active. It was rewarding and everyone got some nice images of these amazing little birds.

We then found a herd of elephants by the river, and this was the ideal opportunity to play around with the dappled light coming through the trees to shoot something a little different. We had our usual bush breakfast and then set about searching the areas for lions. Again, we fell short with the lions, but we found a Grevy's Zebra and foal. Where the foal was located was the perfect opportunity to try some high key images where you deliberately overexpose the image. These images with any animal under the shade of a tree work well and they convert into black and white very well. On our route back to the lodge, we found a long-crested eagle sat in a Doum Palm Tree which was a great find and these are always impressive birds to photograph. We

returned to the lodge for lunch. Most of the group decided to just relax as it was hot. In the afternoon we again went in search of lions in particular areas, but again they were very elusive. We had some nice sightings of a Black Shoulder Kite, several Goshawks and a Yellow Billed Hornbill eating fruit, overall, the afternoon was quiet but once again the group all got more images to add to their expanding Samburu Portfolio. It is always important to reflect on the images that you have captured and yes everyone wants to see lions, leopard and cheetah but you can only make the most of what you see and some of the smaller animals and birds can be as good if photographed in a different and interesting way.









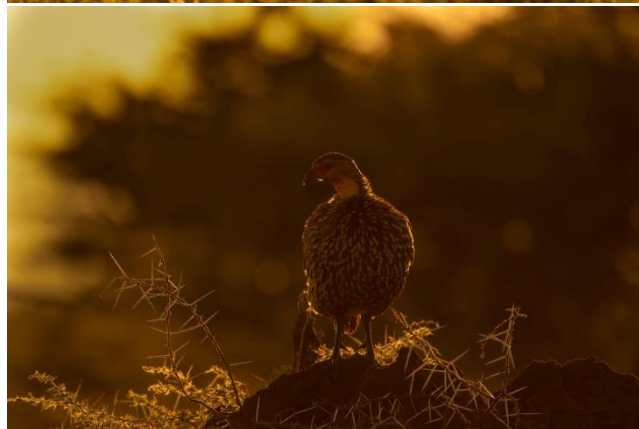


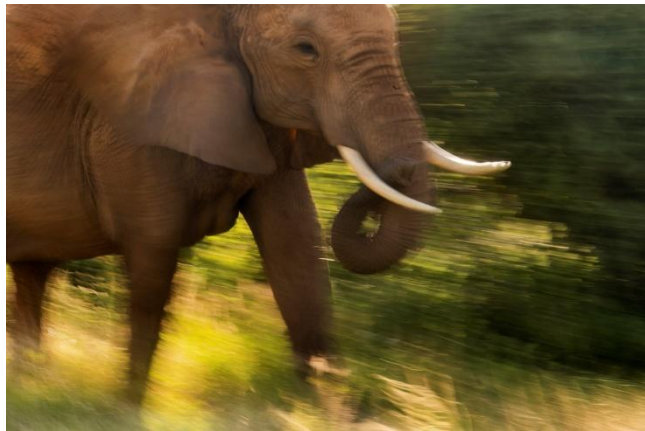
Day 8 Friday 8th May

Our last full day in Samburu and everyone was excited to see what it would bring. We were still determined to look for and find lions. Nobody had seen lions in the whole time we had been in Samburu, but we wanted to try. We spent the morning as usual trying to make the most of the early morning light. We had some luck with some elephants and a Yellow Necked Spurfowl then as the sun was starting to get higher more elephants and Grant's Gazelle. The Elephants were another opportunity to try out some different techniques, high-key and panning and a combination of both. We then found some kudu which was a nice sighting. We had our last bush breakfast and did the obligatory group photo. After breakfast we found a large herd of elephants crossing the river and then watched as they played in the water seeming to really enjoy the relief from the heat. We then found a group of hornbills and spent some time with them as some of the group wanted to practice panning these beautiful birds. Our final highlight of the morning was the adult Grey headed kingfisher feeding a preying mantis to its hungry youngster. It was a good morning. It didn't deliver lions again, but it did deliver some more unique and different images. We returned to the lodge for lunch and once again most of the group elected to spend the time at the lodge relaxing to avoid the middle of the day heat. At 2:30pm we left the lodge for our last afternoon drive. We had heard that the cheetah and cubs that we saw on the first day had been seen late morning so we decided to concentrate on that area to see if we could see them. The afternoon started with more Goshawks and Hornbills. One of the Goshawk sightings had a beautiful clear background so the other vehicle decided to wait to see if they could get the Goshawk in flight. We decided to continue and that is when we had

one of our best sightings of the whole trip. We were driving along the dry riverbed where we had seen the leopard and the plan was to cross to the other side to look for the cheetah, but I caught a glimpse of an animal on the opposite side of the river. It was a striped hyena. Wow what a sighting. We stopped and unfortunately only had a couple of seconds to grab some images before disappeared. We crossed to the other side, and you could feel the excitement rising as we now had a Striped Hyena and Cheetah to look for in the same area. Despite our best efforts we could not locate the hyena. So, we decided to focus on the cheetah. We headed to the last place that it had been seen in the morning. This area proved rewarding for baboons, and we were able to capture some interesting silhouette images of them playing on top of the cliffs. We then found some rock hyrax sheltering in a gap between some rocks. We continued to look for cheetah as the light started to fade but our efforts unfortunately were not rewarded. We started to head back to the lodge stopping on the way to photograph some baby elephants playing and having fun together. We returned to the lodge with some great images from the day and some happy memories of 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.

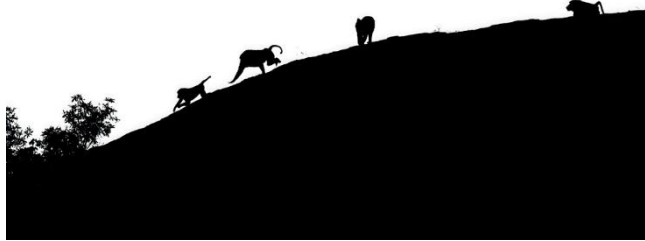
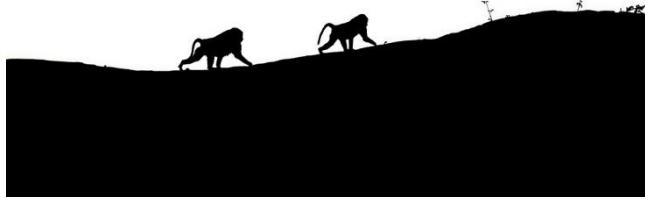














Day 9 Saturday 9th May

After breakfast at 6am we checked out of the lodge and made our way to the gate. We then left Samburu with some happy memories and a lovely portfolio of images and started our long journey to Lake Nakuru. 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 continued to Lake Nakuru. We arrived at lunch time and had our packed lunch at the park gate. Whilst eating our lunch we saw our first white rhino in the distance. We were also joined by a very friendly ginger cat that was keen to share our chicken. We entered the park at just after 2pm and made our way to Lake Nakuru Lodge where we would be staying the night. We checked in and spent an hour relaxing whilst our team removed the glass windows in the vehicles and replaced them with the canvas ones (we do this every time we are in the parks to give better viewing). We set off on our first drive in Lake Nakuru. The first thing we found was a newborn zebra foal which had been born minutes before. We watched as it stumbled around taking its first steps with the mother tenderly licking it to encourage it to stay standing. It was a lovely moment. We then went to look for lions that had been seen earlier that day after they eluded us in Samburu. Our other vehicle found one lion laying in the long grass, but by that time we were watching a troop of baboons with lots of young ones playing and as the lion was not doing much and photographically was not good, we decided to stay with the baboons. After a while we continued and intended to look for rhinos which was our big focus for Lake Nakuru. We found a group of seven white rhino which was quite incredible. Everyone was able to get some images of these stunning animals. We then made our way to the causeway (which is no longer a causeway if you know Lake Nakuru as it has been washed away by the recent heavy rains) We spent the remainder of the afternoon here photographing the meany birds. As the light was

starting to fade, I decided to pan a few of the many birds flying past. It was our plan to come back here the next morning for sunrise anyway, so this was a bonus visit. There is something quite magical sitting with so many birds and listening to all the many noises watching the sun go down and this was a lovely end to the day. We returned to Lake Nakuru Lodge. We met for drinks and then had a lovely meal before sleeping early.









Day 10 Sunday 10th May.

We met for tea and coffee at 5:30am. We then left for an early drive. The plan was to head to the causeway at the lake to maximise the early morning golden light as the sun rose. This did not disappoint. On the way to the lake shore, we saw a spotted hyena which was a nice find. The light was still quite low, so I decided to pan it as it walked past. At the lake, the sun was just starting to rise so it was the perfect timing, before we focused on the birds, we saw a Black Rhino which was another target this morning. A great find and in a lovely setting with the early morning light and mist through the trees. We then concentrated on the birds. Crowned Cranes, Spoonbill, Flamingo, Pelicans, Stilts, Herons. The birds were everywhere. It was a wonderful opportunity to photograph them backlit and then to use the sun coming from the side to create black backgrounds and really produce something different. We spent a lot of time here and then returned to the lodge for breakfast. After breakfast we checked out but then had a couple of hours in the beautiful lodge grounds to photograph the birds. One of my clients told me that the staff had said there was a tree that was popular with hyrax so the two of us set off to look for them. We spent some time looking in this tree and I had just said that it did not look like we were going to be lucky when we heard a thud behind us. We turned around and a hyrax had jumped off one of the rooms roofs. WOW. It sat on the path and looked at us. It yawned and then made its way to the tree we had been looking at. Lake Nakuru Lodge has an abundance of birdlife, and the staff were amazing there in pointing out specific species and where to find them. This included a pied Flycatcher Nest hidden right next to the restaurant. We all enjoyed this time to spend capturing some different images. We left late morning to exit the park doing a drive enroute. The drive took longer than expected again due to the many birds we saw this included White Fronted Bee-eater which was our fifth different species of the trip. We also saw hoopoe, fish eagle, augur buzzard, pelicans, and a lilac breasted roller which caught a dung beetle.















We exited Lake Nakuru at around 1pm and started the shorter journey to Lake Naivasha. We arrived at Elsamere just before 3pm. We checked in and had lunch. We relaxed for a while and some of the group photographed the Colobus Monkeys. We then did a boat trip to look for birds and to photograph the impressive African Fish Eagles. On the boat trip the boat guides feed the eagles using the locally caught fish. This is very strictly controlled with a set number of fish per boat. As we left for the trip the Eagles were plentiful and so we got a few opportunities of them coming down for fish. We then continued looking for other birds and found Pied Kingfisher, Giant Kingfisher, and Malachite Kingfisher. We also found a group of hippos. On the way back we fed a few more eagles and had some more opportunities to capture some more images of them fishing. We returned to Elsamere and relaxed before having dinner at 7pm. We all slept early.







Day 11 Monday 11th May.

We woke early after a very restful night. We had visits from hippos, giraffe, and zebra through the night eating just outside our rooms. We met for coffee and tea before our second planned boat trip. Whilst we were waiting everyone agreed that Elsamere is an incredibly special place and is so peaceful. Life seems to slow down a notch when you arrive and after a hectic safari schedule it is a lovely way to end the trip. The boat trip was brilliant again with lots more eagles. We also saw Saddle Billed Stork and Goliath Heron. We returned to Elsamere for breakfast and then checked out. We again planned some free time in Elsamere before driving back to Nairobi. All the group used the opportunity to photograph the Colobus Monkeys and abundant wildlife and birds around the grounds. We left Elsamere around 12pm and returned to Nairobi. We checked in to the Weston Hotel and met at 5pm for one last meal as a group. One of the group decided to leave this evening so we said goodbye to him and then after dinner sat in the bar and had a few drinks before the rest of the group went to sleep early. They had decided to book an optional excursion to Nairobi National Park.













Day 12 Tuesday 12th May.

The group had an enjoyable day at Nairobi National Park seeing cheetah, black rhino, white rhino, and lots of birds. I unfortunately couldn't join them as after nearly 30 days on safaris (this trip and private trips before) I had a lot of admin to catch up on. Two of the group were continuing their time in Kenya with a private trip to Tsavo whilst the other two left this evening. So, after another meal together we said goodbye to the two leaving and then retired to our rooms.

This was another hugely successful Samburu trip with excellent sightings, and everyone left with memory cards full of different images using different and new techniques to shoot a full and diverse portfolio of the trip.

Going on safari in Samburu in May is a choice that rewards curiosity and openness. It is for travellers who are willing to trade guaranteed sightings for something less tangible but more meaningful.

In the green season, Samburu is not just a destination - it is a mood. A place where rainstorms sweep across the plains, where wildlife moves quietly through tall grass, and where the landscape itself feels alive with possibility.

If you embrace it, April and May may just be the most memorable time you ever go on safari.

If you are interested in joining me on next year's trip, then get in touch.



Our 2026 group and guides.

Back Row. Claire, Mark, James (Driver Guide), Iain, Me

Front Row. Susan, Isaac (specialist guide), Peeta (Driver Guide)

Taking the photo - Danny

