

LUMO CONSERVANCY

Tsavo West Ecosystem · Kenya

VARD AFRICA · DESTINATION INTELLIGENCE SERIES

SOROI LIONS BLUFF LODGE
SOROI LEOPARDS LAIR
SOROI CHEETAH TENTED CAMP

Ultra-Luxury · Community Conservation · Intimate Safari Living

THE LUMO CONSERVANCY

Ecosystem Introduction · Tsavo West · Taita-Taveta County, Kenya

THE LIVING GEOGRAPHY

Tucked between two of Kenya's most celebrated wilderness areas Tsavo West National Park and the Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary the LUMO Community Wildlife Conservancy sprawls across 48,000 acres (approximately 657 square kilometres) of raw, untamed southern Kenya. Its position at the very heart of the greater Tsavo Ecosystem, one of Africa's largest contiguous wildlife areas, makes it not only a destination of extraordinary beauty but a landscape of critical ecological consequence.

The conservancy's terrain is a compelling mosaic: open savannahs gilded with umbrella thorn acacias and the iconic, ancient baobabs give way to riverine corridors dense with fever trees, doum palms, and tamarinds. To the west, the mist-wrapped peaks of the Taita Hills rise dramatically, framing the conservancy in a backdrop that shifts from purple at dawn to ochre at dusk. On clear mornings, the snow-capped silhouette of Mount Kilimanjaro the highest free-standing mountain on earth floats above the horizon to the south, lending the landscape a theatrical grandeur that few places in Africa can match.

Within the conservancy's waterholes, plains, and kopjes lies a vibrant web of life: elephants moving in ancient corridors, lions resting in the shade of rocky outcrops, leopards threading silently through the undergrowth, and cheetahs sprinting across the open flats. Over 300 recorded bird species fill the air, including six species endemic to the Taita Hills the Taita Thrush, Taita Apalis, and Taita White-eye among them making LUMO a truly world-class destination for ornithologists and birders.

ORIGINS & HISTORY

The story of LUMO is a story of community resolve. In 1997, a historic Memorandum of Understanding was signed among three neighbouring community-owned group ranches Lualenyi (established 1965), Mramba (established 1991), and Oza formally merging their territories to create a shared wildlife sanctuary. The acronym LUMO is drawn directly from the initials of these founding ranches. The Sanctuary was registered as a Self-Help Group in 1998 and formally constituted as a Trust in 2001, giving it legal standing to manage the landscape for conservation, culture, and sustainable tourism.

The initiative brought together over 5,288 shareholders, all members of the indigenous Taita ethnic community, whose traditional relationship with this land stretches back generations. Membership in LUMO remains exclusively drawn from the Taita people, ensuring the conservancy remains a deeply rooted community enterprise rather than an externally imposed conservation model.

Early development of the conservancy's infrastructure was made possible through funding from the European Union's Biodiversity Conservation Programme (BCP) and USAID's Conservation of Resources through Enterprise (CORE) programme. The African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) played a key role in the completion of Lions Bluff Lodge the first and flagship accommodation within the conservancy and remains a significant development partner.

In 2023, LUMO received a 195,000 EUR grant through the IUCN's BIOPAMA programme administered via the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 and reinforce governance, sustainability, and wildlife management. A new Management Plan (2024–2029) has since been officially gazetted, marking a new chapter of institutional maturity for the conservancy.

ECOLOGICAL ROLE & WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

LUMO's most important ecological function is as a wildlife corridor. It forms a critical passage between Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks in Kenya, and connects southward to Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania, enabling the seasonal and permanent movement of large mammals particularly elephants across international boundaries. Without LUMO's 48,000 acres of unfenced, protected land, this corridor would fracture, isolating populations and diminishing the genetic diversity that sustains healthy wildlife communities across the entire Tsavo ecosystem.

The conservancy's anti-poaching efforts have delivered measurable results: elephant populations, once severely threatened, have steadily recovered. Lion numbers have rebounded. And the overall biodiversity of the landscape continues to improve under the protection of LUMO's dedicated ranger force, led for over two decades by committed individuals from the Taita community itself.

COMMUNITY & CONSERVATION MODEL

What distinguishes LUMO from many conservation areas is the structural integration of community benefit into every level of its operation. Revenue generated through eco-tourism from conservancy fees, lodge stays, and game drive levies flows directly back into the community through investments in education, healthcare, and infrastructure for the approximately 5,000 households that form the LUMO membership base.

The conservancy's governance structure is led by a Board of Trustees comprising nine members drawn from its shareholder community, ensuring that decision-making authority remains with the people whose land this has always been. Community members also serve as rangers, guides, chefs, and lodge staff creating economic opportunity while building local expertise in conservation and hospitality.

LUMO also maintains strict grazing management agreements with the Taita herding community, permitting seasonal access to designated areas of the conservancy according to an agreed grazing plan a delicate but essential balance between cultural livelihood and ecological sustainability.

CLIMATE & BEST TIME TO VISIT

LUMO enjoys a warm, semi-arid climate influenced by the altitude of the Taita Hills to the west. The best periods for wildlife viewing are the dry seasons: June to October and January to February, when vegetation thins, game concentrates around waterholes, and skies remain clear for the extraordinary view of Kilimanjaro. The long rains fall from March to May, during which some roads may become challenging; however, the landscape transforms into a lush, emerald carpet, and the birdlife reaches its spectacular peak.

SOROI LIONS BLUFF LODGE

The Crown of the Conservancy · 12 Luxury Suites · Lumo Conservancy, Tsavo West

INTRODUCTION & DEEP HISTORY

Perched dramatically on the highest point within the LUMO Conservancy at approximately 1,200 feet above the surrounding plains Soroi Lions Bluff Lodge is a property that does something rare in the world of African safari lodges: it earns its superlatives honestly. Developed with funding from USAID's CORE programme and completed in partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation, Lions Bluff was conceived not merely as a luxury retreat but as a living engine for community conservation. It was the first lodge to open within the LUMO Conservancy, and for many years it remained the sole accommodation here a pioneer in demonstrating that responsible, community-rooted tourism could be both financially viable and ecologically transformative.

The lodge's name is drawn from the dramatic rocky bluff a classic African kopje upon which it sits. The 'lions' are not mere marketing flourish: the resident lion prides of the conservancy are a defining presence of the landscape, and sightings from the lodge's elevated vantage point are a near-daily occurrence. The building of Lions Bluff was itself an act of faith an investment in community potential and landscape protection long before the international luxury safari market had discovered this corner of Kenya.

Today, Lions Bluff is operated under the Soroi Collection a Nairobi-based, family-owned hospitality group that also manages Soroi Mara Bush Camp, Soroi Larsens Camp, and several other intimate properties across Kenya. Soroi Collection operates in partnership with the LUMO Trust, ensuring that a significant portion of lodge revenues is reinvested into the conservancy and its community shareholders.

OWNERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Lions Bluff Lodge is operated by the Soroi Collection, a family-owned luxury safari company affiliated with Sunworld Safaris a fully-fledged DMC operating across Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda. Soroi Collection also runs a registered NGO, the Community Wildlife & Conservation Project, founded in April 2020, which is directly involved in uplifting local communities in the Tsavo region, managing protected ecosystems, and driving a zero-carbon-footprint agenda across all of their projects. The LUMO Conservancy Trust retains land ownership, with Soroi Collection operating the lodge under a lease arrangement, paying fees that flow directly to the community trust.

SAFARI EXPERIENCES & WILDLIFE ACCESS

Lions Bluff offers a suite of safari experiences that takes full advantage of LUMO's status as a private conservancy a critical distinction from Kenya's national parks, where rigid rules restrict off-road driving, night drives, and walking. In LUMO, the rules are different. Guests enjoy:

- Day game drives in open 4×4 Land Cruisers through the 48,000-acre conservancy, with guides who know every waterhole, kopje, and predator territory
- Night game drives — rare and exceptional — offering the chance to encounter leopards, lions on the hunt, hyenas, civets, bush babies, porcupines, and other nocturnal species
- Guided bush walks with expert naturalists and an armed ranger moving through the landscape on foot, reading tracks, identifying plants, and experiencing the bush at a pace that game drives cannot replicate
- The Photographic Hide — a purpose-built, ground-level hide positioned near a waterhole, offering extraordinary close-range wildlife photography without disturbance
- Guided birdwatching outings with specialist ornithological guides, targeting LUMO's 300+ species including Taita Hill endemics
- Sunrise and sunset visits to the lodge's bluff edge, with 360-degree views spanning the Tsavo ecosystem, Taita Hills, Amboseli plains, and on clear mornings — the snow-capped summit of Kilimanjaro
- Cultural village visits to the Taita community, including traditional drumming, craft demonstrations, and conversations with community elders
- Historical excursions to World War I battlefield sites in the region
- Day trips to Mzima Springs (crystal-clear hippo pools within Tsavo West), Shetani Lava Flows, and Lake Jipe
- EGGS (Eye Go Game Spotting) — an innovative community awareness programme that directs funds from wildlife sightings to local conservation projects

INTIMATE SAFARI LIVING — ROOMS & SLEEPING

Lions Bluff Lodge offers 12 luxury suites, making it one of the larger properties in the LUMO ecosystem but still an emphatically intimate lodge by any standard. Each suite is a private sanctuary, constructed using local stone, natural timbers, and thatched roofing blending into the rocky kopje environment with architectural sensitivity.

The suites are oriented to face the conservancy, with floor-to-ceiling glass panels and large panoramic outdoor decks allowing uninterrupted engagement with the landscape at all hours. Interiors are styled in warm earth tones ochre, sienna, cream with handcrafted four-poster beds dressed in crisp white cotton, organic cotton linens, and quality bedding. The outdoor shower experience where guests can bathe in the open air with views across the plains, with total privacy is a signature moment of the property; reports of watching elephants while showering in total seclusion are frequent in guest reviews.

Room categories include:

- Standard Luxury Suites — 10 rooms, king or twin bed configuration, private deck, en-suite bathroom with indoor and outdoor shower
- Family Units — additional capacity for families, with connected configurations
- Honeymoon Suite — an elevated, most private suite with enhanced space, dedicated deck positioning, and additional romantic touches

All suites include: private panoramic deck with comfortable seating, handcrafted four-poster bed, en-suite hot and cold shower, pure cotton linen, mosquito nets, filtered water, Wi-Fi connectivity, and 24-hour electricity.

AMENITIES & FACILITIES

- Infinity swimming pool — uniquely shaped, positioned to capture the full horizon, with poolside service
- Sundowner Deck — dedicated outdoor terrace ideal for pre-dinner cocktails as the sky transitions from gold to crimson
- Photographic Hide — ground-level, waterhole-facing hide for serious and amateur wildlife photographers
- Spa & Wellness — in-room and outdoor spa treatments available, including massage on private decks with conservancy views
- Main lodge area — stone-walled, timber-beamed, reed-roofed central space with comfortable sitting lounge, bar area, and dining room
- Complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi throughout lodge and rooms
- Full laundry service
- 24-hour security
- Fleet of safari-equipped open-sided 4×4 Land Cruisers with pop-up roofs
- Airport and airstrip transfers
- Local community craft retail — handmade items from local women's groups

CULINARY & DINING EXPERIENCE

Dining at Lions Bluff is an experience that frequently surprises guests who arrive expecting bush-camp standards and find instead a culinary programme of genuine refinement. Meals are prepared using locally sourced ingredients, with the kitchen team blending African flavours influenced by the Taita food culture with continental and international techniques. The result is cooking that is simultaneously rooted in place and polished in execution.

The lodge offers full-board accommodation with three meals daily a hearty bush breakfast, a leisurely lunch, and a three-to-four-course dinner served in the dining room or, on special occasions, arranged under the stars on the sundowner deck or at bush locations within the conservancy. Signature touches include house-made ice cream and sorbet, made fresh daily; a choice of four main courses at each dinner service; and the ability to accommodate all dietary requirements with advance notice. The bar is well-stocked with local and international spirits.

A particular highlight noted by repeat guests is the lodge's imaginative bush breakfast programme guides occasionally divert game drives to deliver guests to secret locations within the conservancy for a fully laid outdoor breakfast spread, with made-to-order omelettes and a panoramic backdrop that no restaurant in the world could replicate.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Lions Bluff Lodge holds a Silver Eco-Rating from Ecotourism Kenya a rigorous sustainability certification that evaluates community social responsibility, single-use plastic policy, employment practices, environmental policies, waste management, green technologies, and eco-friendly building standards. The Soroi Collection, as the operating group, has participated in the ATTA (African Travel & Tourism Association) network and has been featured by international travel media as a benchmark for responsible community-partnered luxury in Kenya's southern wilderness circuit.

SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION IMPACT

Sustainability is not a marketing position at Lions Bluff it is the operational foundation. The lodge's Silver Eco-Rating reflects active practices including: solar-powered electricity supplemented by generator backup, water recycling and filtration systems, waste management protocols in partnership with Taka Taka Solutions (which responsibly sorts 95% of waste), a strict single-use plastic ban, and procurement policies that prioritise local suppliers and community artisans.

Through the Soroi Collection's Community & Wildlife Conservation NGO founded in April 2020 the lodge supports food donations to surrounding communities, educational materials for children in remote villages, job creation programmes for local youth and women, de-snaring and clean-up operations within the conservancy, wildlife education in local languages, and tree-planting initiatives to protect biodiversity.

The lodge's fee structure directly funds LUMO's anti-poaching patrols, wildlife monitoring, and community development programmes meaning every night a guest spends at Lions Bluff translates into tangible, measurable conservation impact.

FAMILIES & CHILDREN

Lions Bluff warmly welcomes families. The lodge offers dedicated family units with connected sleeping configurations, children's activity programmes, and guides experienced in engaging young visitors with the natural world. Activities for children include guided nature walks to look for animal tracks and prints, bird identification sessions, cultural village visits, and junior conservation education. Children under 12 stay at reduced rates. The elevated, railed decks and general property layout require parental supervision for very young children. Night drives are suitable for children over 7, at the discretion of parents and guides.

WHY VARD AFRICA LOVES THIS PROPERTY

◆ *Lions Bluff is the kind of property that recalibrates your expectations of what a safari lodge can be. The view from the bluff at sunrise with Kilimanjaro floating above the horizon, elephants moving across the plains far below, and absolute silence except for the birds is among the most profound experiences we know of in East Africa. The fact that the entire operation is rooted in genuine community partnership, rather than just narrative, makes every moment here feel earned and meaningful.*

WHY YOUR GUESTS WILL LOVE THIS PROPERTY

Guests will love Lions Bluff for the rare combination of elevation, intimacy, and ecological authenticity. The 360-degree views from every suite and public space are unmatched in the Tsavo ecosystem. The private photographic hide delivers close-range wildlife encounters that even major national park lodges cannot offer. The night drives impossible in Amboseli, Masai Mara national parks, or Tsavo East and West regularly produce lion encounters of breathtaking proximity. And the warmth and personalised care of the Soroi Collection team transforms a stay from a hotel experience into something that feels genuinely hosted.

VARD'S INSIDER NOTE

◆ *Request the Honeymoon Suite or the suite with the most westward-facing deck on clear mornings between December and March, the view of Kilimanjaro from bed is pure theatre. Book a private bush breakfast as an add-on it is not to be missed. And do not skip the night drive: the lions here are habituated to vehicles and the encounters can be extraordinarily close and extended. Derrick, Sammy, and Brian are among the best guides in the southern circuit ask for them by name.*

GETTING THERE & LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

- ✓ By Road: From Nairobi — approximately 6 hours via the A109 Nairobi-Mombasa Highway to Voi (360km), then west on the A23 Voi-Taveta Road for 48km. From Mombasa — approximately 4 hours (190-220km) via Voi.
- ✓ A4×4 vehicle is recommended for the final conservancy access road. Vard Africa recommends private road transfers in coordinated, tracked safari vehicles.
- ✓ By Rail: Madaraka Express from Nairobi to Voi Station, followed by a 1-hour 5-minute road transfer to the conservancy. An evocative journey option for guests wishing to combine rail with safari.
- ✓ By Air: Fly ALS operates scheduled afternoon light aircraft services between Wilson Airport (Nairobi) and Taita Hills Airstrip 14:15 departure from Wilson, arriving 15:40; return departure 16:00.
- ✓ Private charter flights can land at Taita Hills Airstrip, with lodge transfers arranged. Vard Africa coordinates all air logistics and airstrip meet-and-greet.
- ✓ Nearest Airstrip: Taita Hills Airstrip (located within the adjacent Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary).
- ✓ Transfer time to lodge: approximately 20–30 minutes.

SOROI LEOPARDS LAIR

The Secret on the Kopje · 5 En-Suite Cottages · Lumo Conservancy, Tsavo West

INTRODUCTION & DEEP HISTORY

Perched on the same ancient rocky kopje that hosts Lions Bluff Lodge yet removed from it by enough distance and vertical gradient to feel entirely separate — Soroi Leopards Lair occupies a position of remarkable intimacy and solitude. Where Lions Bluff commands the horizon with architectural confidence, Leopards Lair settles into the landscape with a quieter, more rustic intelligence. Built using local stone, timber, and earthy natural materials that echo the tones of the kopje itself, the five cottages of Leopards Lair feel less like a lodge and more like a private retreat that the landscape has grown around.

Leopards Lair represents Soroi Collection's mid-tier offering within the LUMO ecosystem a deliberate positioning that allows for a more self-contained, independent, and flexible stay, while retaining access to the same 48,000 acres of exclusive conservancy game viewing, the same expert guides, and the same conservation mission that defines the entire Soroi presence in LUMO. Named for the elusive leopards that inhabit the rocky terrain of the bluff regularly spotted by guides and guests alike the property's name is not aspirational but observational.

OWNERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Soroi Leopards Lair is owned and operated by the Soroi Collection, under the same community-partnership lease arrangement with the LUMO Community Wildlife Conservancy Trust that governs Lions Bluff Lodge. Management on the ground is provided by a dedicated, resident camp team. The property can be booked on a full-board basis, self-catering basis, game package basis, or taken on exclusive-use terms for private groups or families — a flexibility that is rare in the Kenyan market and which Vard Africa considers one of the property's most compelling operational attributes.

SAFARI EXPERIENCES & WILDLIFE ACCESS

Guests of Leopards Lair enjoy complete access to the LUMO Conservancy's safari programme, shared with Lions Bluff Lodge:

- Shared and scheduled day game drives in custom 4×4 safari vehicles with accredited English-speaking guides (included in game package)
- Night game drives through the conservancy — particularly effective for leopard, lion, hyena, and nocturnal species
- Guided bush walks with expert naturalists and armed ranger
- Bird walks targeting LUMO's extraordinary avifauna, including 6 Taita-endemic species
- Bush breakfasts, sundowners in the field, and remote picnic options
- EGGS (Eye Go Game Spotting) community conservation programme
- Cultural visits to Taita community villages
- Nature Trail around Lions Bluff and the kopje terrain
- Excursions to Lake Chala, Kasigau Hill, Lake Jipe, indigenous forests of the Taita Hills, and Shetani Lava Flows & Mzima Springs
- Battlefield Tour of WWI sites in the region
- Access to the Photographic Hide (available at additional charge)

The conservancy's private status — no public access, no crowded crossings, no vehicles from competing lodges means that wildlife encounters here retain a quality of exclusivity and authenticity that the national parks, for all their abundance, cannot match.

INTIMATE SAFARI LIVING — ROOMS & SLEEPING

Leopards Lair comprises five en-suite cottages, each built from local stone and warm earthy materials, designed to blend architecturally into the kopje environment. The cottages are positioned on the bluff to capture sweeping views across the Lumo plains, the Taita Hills, and on clear days the distant profile of Mount Kilimanjaro and the peaks of Tanzania's Pare Mountains.

Room configuration:

- Double Cottages (x2) — 1 King-size bed, private en-suite bathroom with hot and cold shower, private terrace with conservancy views
- Triple Cottages (x3) — 1 King-size bed + 1 Single bed, private en-suite bathroom, private terrace

All cottages include: pure cotton bedding and linens, mosquito netting, hot and cold shower, electrical outlets, tea and coffee facilities, and a private verandah overlooking the conservancy. A large communal dining area with a fully equipped kitchen is shared by all cottage guests facilitating both the warmth of communal gathering and the flexibility of self-catering.

The property can accommodate exclusive-use bookings for groups or families wishing to have the entire five-cottage compound to themselves an option that transforms Leopards Lair into a private bush house of extraordinary character and seclusion.

AMENITIES & FACILITIES

- Five private en-suite cottages with terrace views
- Large communal dining area and shared kitchen — fully equipped for self-catering
- Bar — well-stocked with local and imported beverages
- 24-hour security
- Battery charging facilities
- Complimentary internet access and mobile connectivity
- Laundry service available
- Secure parking
- Access to Photographic Hide (additional charge)
- Airstrip transfers from Taita Hills Airstrip

CULINARY & DINING EXPERIENCE

Leopards Lair offers guests a choice between two dining models, which is itself a mark of unusual operational flexibility for a safari property of this scale. Full-board guests enjoy three home-cooked meals daily prepared by the resident chef team: a generous bush breakfast, a light lunch, and a three-course dinner. The kitchen's signature dishes include home-cooked pastas, marinated steaks, chicken lasagna, and a rotating selection of Kenyan and continental flavours. Vegan and vegetarian options are available for every meal service, and all dietary requirements can be accommodated with advance notice.

Alternatively, the property's fully equipped communal kitchen enables genuine self-catering ideal for extended family groups or guests who prefer the rhythm of their own cooking in a spectacular bush setting. Fresh provisions can be arranged through the lodge team. Meals can be served in the communal dining room or arranged at sunset viewpoints and in the field on bush breakfast excursions.

Communal storytelling around the campfire at dusk with drinks in hand and the sounds of the conservancy coming alive around you is a ritual that guests return home speaking about with particular warmth.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Soroi Leopards Lair is part of the Soroi Collection portfolio, which holds active eco-certification and has been consistently recognised within Kenya's responsible tourism community. The property contributes to LUMO Conservancy's sustainability goals and the Community & Wildlife Conservation Project's community upliftment mandate.

SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION IMPACT

As a Soroi Collection property, Leopards Lair operates under the same sustainability framework as Lions Bluff Lodge: eco-friendly building materials and construction methods using local artisans; single-use plastic ban; responsible waste management; community employment prioritization; and fee structures that contribute directly to LUMO's anti-poaching, wildlife monitoring, and community development programmes.

Leopards Lair also actively supports the Eye Go Game Spotting (EGGS) programme an innovative initiative that raises awareness and funds for local community projects through participatory wildlife recording. Guests can contribute meaningfully to the conservancy's conservation data while enjoying their game drives.

FAMILIES & CHILDREN

Leopards Lair is well suited to families, particularly those seeking a more independent, self-contained safari rhythm. Children aged 5–11 pay 50% of the adult sharing rate. The triple cottage configuration (king bed + single bed) makes the property natural for small family units. The self-catering option gives families control over mealtimes and dietary preferences. Activities for children include guided nature walks, track identification, bird walks, and cultural village visits. The communal campfire environment is particularly well suited to multi-generational family groups.

WHY VARD AFRICA LOVES THIS PROPERTY

✦ *Leopards Lair is our recommendation for guests who want the full LUMO experience but prefer the feeling of a private bush house over a lodge. The five-cottage compound, when taken on exclusive use, becomes something genuinely special your own piece of the African wilderness, staffed and supported, but feeling entirely yours. The views from the cottage terraces toward Kilimanjaro are as good as anything Lions Bluff offers, and the pricing represents extraordinary value for the quality of the experience.*

WHY YOUR GUESTS WILL LOVE THIS PROPERTY

Guests will love Leopards Lair for its rare combination of intimacy, independence, and access. The exclusive-use option creates a bespoke, private-house atmosphere that resonates deeply with high-end travellers who value discretion and personalization. The cottage terraces each facing the open conservancy — are among the finest private viewing platforms in Kenya's southern circuit. The shared campfire and communal dining areas create an authentic sense of bush camaraderie that guests treasure long after returning home.

VARD'S INSIDER NOTE

✦ *Book Leopards Lair on exclusive use for a multigenerational family group or a small group of close friends — 5 cottages, a private bush kitchen, your own campfire, and 48,000 acres of exclusive wildlife access. It is an extraordinary configuration that very few properties in Kenya can match at this price point. Request driver-guide Sammy specifically — his knowledge of the kopje terrain and leopard tracking within LUMO is exceptional.*

GETTING THERE & LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

- ✓ Access to Soroi Leopards Lair follows the same routes as Lions Bluff Lodge.
- ✓ The property is situated 232km from Nairobi and 48km east of Voi along the A23 Taita-Taveta Road. By air, Taita Hills Airstrip serves private charters and the Fly ALS scheduled afternoon service from Wilson Airport.
- ✓ Ground transfers from Voi or the airstrip are arranged by the lodge team.
- ✓ Vard Africa manages all transfer logistics, including coordinated arrival with game drives.

SOROI CHEETAH TENTED CAMP

The Plains Perspective · 8 Canvas Tents · Lumo Conservancy, Tsavo West

INTRODUCTION & DEEP HISTORY

If Lions Bluff commands the kopje and Leopards Lair inhabits it, then Soroi Cheetah Tented Camp lives at its feet positioned on the gentle lower slopes of the same ancient rocky hill, closer to the plains, closer to the wildlife corridors, and closest of all three properties to the rhythms of the conservancy floor itself. Named for the cheetahs that use the open savannahs of LUMO's lower plains as their hunting grounds, Cheetah Tented Camp represents the most immersive, ground-level safari experience within the Soroi Collection's LUMO portfolio.

The camp is recently renovated and sits as a distinct proposition within the Soroi ecosystem: canvas tents in the classic East African tradition, but designed and managed with a level of care and service quality that regularly prompts guests to declare it, without irony, 'perfect.' The camp's unfenced perimeter — meaning wildlife can and does move freely through and around the camp at night creates the authentic, unmediated bush experience that is the original promise of the tented safari camp format.

Guests at Cheetah Tented Camp enjoy a different visual perspective than those staying higher on the bluff: from the camp's terrace and individual tent verandahs, the eye sweeps across the open conservancy plains at game height, observing the movement of herds with an immediacy that no elevated lodge can replicate. Elephants, zebras, and eland frequently move through the lower corridors visible from camp and the sounds of the bush at night, unfiltered by walls or windows, are the soundtrack of the stay.

OWNERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

Soroi Cheetah Tented Camp is owned and operated by the Soroi Collection, under the same community-partnership arrangement with the LUMO Conservancy Trust that governs Lions Bluff Lodge and Leopards Lair. The camp is fully staffed with a resident camp manager, dedicated chef team, housekeeping, and security and operates on a full-board basis. The recently completed renovation reflects Soroi Collection's ongoing investment in quality and environmental sensitivity across all three of their LUMO properties.

SAFARI EXPERIENCES & WILDLIFE ACCESS

Cheetah Tented Camp guests enjoy the complete LUMO safari programme, with the additional perspective of ground-level proximity to the plains:

- Day game drives in custom 4×4 safari vehicles expert guides lead drives through the conservancy's plains, kopje terrain, and dry riverbeds
- Night game drives — accessing nocturnal species including lions, hyenas, civets, porcupines, bush babies, and genets
- Guided bush walks with armed ranger through the conservancy
- Guided bird walks targeting LUMO's 300+ species, with focus on the open plains species and migratory visitors
- Bush breakfasts arranged at scenic locations within the conservancy
- Sundowners at bluff viewpoints with full panoramic access
- EGGS (Eye Go Game Spotting) conservation programme
- Cultural village visits to the Taita community
- Nature trails around the kopje and lower slopes
- Excursions to Lake Chala, the indigenous forests of the Taita Hills, Lake Jipe, Shetani Lava Flows, Mzima Springs, and WWI Battlefield sites
- Stargazing sessions — the camp's remote location and minimal light pollution make the night sky at Cheetah Camp an extraordinary natural spectacle, with the Milky Way fully visible and nocturnal wildlife sounds as accompaniment

INTIMATE SAFARI LIVING — ROOMS & SLEEPING

Cheetah Tented Camp comprises 8 canvas tents in total, arranged on the lower slopes to maximise privacy and conservancy views:

- 6 Standard Twin Tents — each sleeping 2 guests in cosy twin beds (2 single beds), with private en-suite bathroom, private verandah, mosquito netting, fan, and filtered water
- Family Tent 1 — sleeps 4 guests, comprising a double en-suite room and a twin en-suite room with a common sitting area connecting the two
- Family Tent 2 — sleeps 5 guests (exact configuration available on enquiry)

Upon request, additional beds can be provided in standard tents. Each tent has a private verandah directly facing the open conservancy the morning ritual of sitting with coffee, watching the herds move through the lower corridor as the sun rises, is among the most treasured moments guests describe from their stay. A shared guest mess area, carefully positioned to capture panoramic sunsets, serves as the communal hub for dining, relaxation, and evening gathering around the fire.

The tent design is classic East African canvas construction not glamping architecture, but proper canvas on a supported frame with solid flooring, en-suite plumbing, and all essential modern comforts executed with the honesty and care of an owner-operated camp. Guests report the tents feel 'like an open-air hotel room' a description that captures the balance Soroi has struck between authentic bush atmosphere and genuine comfort.

AMENITIES & FACILITIES

- 8 canvas tents with private en-suite bathrooms and private verandahs
- Communal mess area and dining tent — positioned for panoramic sunset views
- Bar and lounge area
- Free Wi-Fi throughout camp
- Free on-site parking
- Airport and airstrip transfers
- Laundry service
- 24-hour security
- Mosquito nets in all tents
- Fans in all tents
- Large water dispensers in all tents (clean filtered water)
- Battery charging facilities
- Eco-friendly construction and operating practices

CULINARY & DINING EXPERIENCE

Cheetah Tented Camp's culinary programme is consistently cited by guests as a standout strength of the property a surprise that speaks to the skill and care of the resident chef team. Meals are prepared fresh daily using locally sourced ingredients, and served in the communal dining tent or, for special experiences, in the open bush.

Breakfast at the camp is a genuine event: a selection of fresh fruits, pastries, eggs to order, cereals, and juices followed by the option of a bush breakfast excursion, where the morning drive culminates in a fully set table in a scenic location deep in the conservancy. Lunch is a lighter affair grilled proteins, salads, rice and pasta dishes while dinner rises to three courses with rotating Kenyan and continental options.

The camp's chefs are experienced in accommodating all dietary requirements, including vegan, vegetarian, and allergen-specific diets, with advance notice. A signature evening ritual is the 'lala salama' rum shot a toast to the African night and the adventures ahead which has become something of a camp tradition and appears in guest reviews with notable affection. The campfire, around which evening storytelling and sundowner drinks congregate, is the social heart of the Cheetah experience.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Soroi Cheetah Tented Camp forms part of the Soroi Collection's eco-certified portfolio. The camp has received consistently exceptional guest reviews on platforms including TripAdvisor, where it has been described as 'the best stay I have ever had in Kenya' by guests who have stayed across multiple properties in the country. The camp is part of a portfolio that participates in the ATTA network and the Ecotourism Kenya certification framework.

SUSTAINABILITY & CONSERVATION IMPACT

Soroi Cheetah Tented Camp is designed and operated with a minimal ecological footprint: canvas construction with low environmental impact, waste management protocols aligned with the Soroi Collection's zero-waste mandate, a complete single-use plastic ban, locally sourced food procurement, and community employment policies that prioritise hiring from the surrounding Taita community. Every conservancy fee paid by Cheetah Camp guests flows directly into LUMO's wildlife protection, anti-poaching, and community development programmes.

The camp's unfenced nature where wildlife moves freely through the camp at night is itself a conservation statement: this is not a zoo or a park, but a living ecosystem in which the camp exists on the wildlife's terms, not the other way around.

FAMILIES & CHILDREN

Soroi Cheetah Tented Camp is particularly well suited to families seeking an authentic, ground-level bush experience. The two-family tents (sleeping 4 and 5 respectively) provide comfortable, connected accommodation for families travelling together. Children's activities include nature walks, bird identification, track spotting, and cultural visits. The camp's communal mess area and campfire environment create a warm, inclusive atmosphere for family groups. Children under 12 are accommodated at reduced rates. The camp team is experienced in creating engaging wildlife experiences for young guests, with guides who excel at making conservation education accessible and exciting for children of all ages.

WHY VARD AFRICA LOVES THIS PROPERTY

✦ *Cheetah Camp is our recommendation for guests who want the full sensory experience of being in the African bush not looking down at it from a lodge, but in it, surrounded by it, hearing it at night through canvas walls. The herds that move through the lower conservancy corridor below the camp at dusk and dawn create a level of immersion that elevates this from a place to stay into a place that stays with you. The campfire, the lala salama shot, the night sounds this is what people mean when they say they want 'the real Africa.'*

WHY YOUR GUESTS WILL LOVE THIS PROPERTY

Guests love Cheetah Camp for the sensation of sleeping in the wild genuinely in it, with nature moving around them, not beneath them. The family tents are among the most generously configured family canvas accommodations in Kenya's southern circuit. The guides Honest's birdwatching expertise is particularly celebrated deliver the kind of personalised, expert safari experience that creates loyal guests. And the 'perfect' rating it consistently receives is a reflection of the owner-managed attention to detail that runs through every aspect of the camp's operation.

VARD'S INSIDER NOTE

✦ *Book early — with only 8 tents, Cheetah Camp fills faster than guests expect, particularly during the peak dry season. Request a tent on the end of the line for maximum privacy and the best view of the lower corridor. The stargazing here is exceptional ask your guide to lay out blankets on the mesa above the camp on a clear night. And do not leave without doing a night drive: Honest's skill at spotting nocturnal species with the spotlight is remarkable he finds creatures most guides would miss entirely.*

GETTING THERE & LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

- ✓ Soroi Cheetah Tented Camp shares the same access routes and logistical infrastructure as Lions Bluff Lodge and Leopards Lair.
- ✓ It is situated on the lower slopes of the same hill, approximately 232km from Nairobi and 48km east of Voi.
- ✓ By air, Taita Hills Airstrip serves both private charters and the Fly ALS scheduled afternoon service from Wilson Airport (Nairobi).
- ✓ Ground transfers from Voi, Mombasa, or Taita Hills Airstrip are coordinated by the camp team.
- ✓ Vard Africa manages all pre-arrival logistics, meet-and-greet at airstrips, and post-departure transfers with our dedicated ground operations team.

VARD AFRICA · COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW

The Soroi Trilogy in Lumo Conservancy — Matching the Right Guest to the Right Property

LUMO Conservancy offers a rare proposition: three distinct accommodations within the same private wilderness, managed by the same operator, serving the same conservation mission, yet positioned to serve fundamentally different guest profiles and travel styles. Vard Africa's recommendation framework:

Soroi Lions Bluff Lodge — For guests who prioritise elevated luxury, panoramic views, the highest service standard, and the full amenity offering including spa, infinity pool, and fine dining. Ideal for honeymooners, discerning first-time safari guests, and repeat travellers who appreciate a polished, managed lodge experience with genuine conservation depth.

Soroi Leopards Lair — For guests who prize independence, privacy, and the feeling of a private bush house. Best suited to families taking exclusive use, small groups of friends, or self-sufficient travellers who want to inhabit the conservancy on their own terms. The self-catering option is a genuine differentiator in the Kenyan market.

Soroi Cheetah Tented Camp — For guests who want the authentic tented camp experience in its purest form: canvas, campfire, wildlife at ground level, and the sounds of the African night through the walls of their tent. Best for adventurous families, wildlife enthusiasts, birdwatchers, photographers, and anyone for whom the sensation of being in the bush not above it is the primary motivation.

✦ *All three properties access the same 48,000 acres of exclusive conservancy. All three are operated by the same team. All three deliver the same quality of conservation partnership. The difference is in altitude, format, and the specific poetry of the experience. For multi-property itineraries within LUMO, Vard Africa recommends: begin at Cheetah Camp (ground-level immersion), ascend to Lions Bluff (elevation and luxury) two nights each creates a narrative arc of discovery that guests find deeply satisfying.*