

Makena's Hills The Center of Origins Fact Sheet



General Information

Imagine a view that stretches out across hundreds of miles of Kenya's Great Rift Valley, where the light plays on the hills and Lake Baringo in a constantly changing picture. In this ancient landscape, very little has changed since our first ancestors first walked these very hills millions of years ago. Makena's Hills is a place of reflection and serenity, from which one can explore the wilderness of the Mukutan Conservancy. Regularly hosting creative retreats, events, gatherings and yoga retreats, one leaves Makena's Hills feeling revived and healthy.

Location

Situated on the extreme western edge of the Laikipia Plateau, with spectacular views across Kenya's Rift Valley overlooking Lake Baringo, the Gallmann Mukutan Conservancy is the 90, 000 acre biodiversity oasis that internationally renowned best-selling author Kuki Gallmann calls home.

Makena's Hills sits on the highest point of Kurumakini Hill, with 360 degree views that leave visitors stunned and humbled by ancient and limitless horizons. The surrounding hills are perfect for long walks ending in secret spots for sunset and Englesha Forest nearby is thick with cedar and huge acacias, brimming with wildlife including colobus monkeys and elusive melanistic leopards, many rare birds and endemic insects. A nearby cottage by a lake is the perfect place to while away an afternoon waiting for elephant and buffalo to come to the water to drink.



The Conservancy

The Conservancy owes its extraordinary biodiversity to its unique topography, that traverses several different undisturbed ecosystems, and to conservation efforts spanning over a generation. From the cedar and acacia clad slopes of the Engelesha forest, through Olive Groves and Savannah and deep into the tropical Mukutan Gorge. Dotted with Paleolithic and Neolithic sites the conservancy is also a refuge to large numbers of elephant, buffalo, lion, cheetah, leopard, numerous other large mammal species and 478 bird species, including over 40 that are on the IUCN Endangered 'Red List'. Home to the Gallmann memorial Foundation, dedicated to the coexistence of people and nature, the Conservancy hosts a variety of vibrant and innovative community and conservation projects.

Due to its size and the infrequency of vehicles, animals in the Conservancy are wild and at times unpredictable. This is not a place where you will see the 'Big 5' in a day, it is a place which will reveal itself to you slowly, allowing for surprise encounters with wildlife and expeditions into little visited places. It is the perfect place to begin to understand the truly wild pulse of the African Bush, to connect with an ancient, raw, instinctive harmony with nature.

Accommodation



Makena's Hills is spacious and refined. Special antiques and collectors items adorn each room and the living area and the feeling is very much one of being in a private and carefully looked after residence rather than a lodge.

The main reception area has 2 fireplaces which are like private living rooms and individual dining areas as well as the ability to host everyone together for larger groups. There is also a front terrace with a campfire and a natural rock swimming pool. The Yoga Shala has stunning views and Kudu sometime come to watch if you feel like stretching out after a long walk.

Six large and airy permanent Arabic Style Beige tents, all with exceptional views are filled with carefully chosen antiques. Each room has either a large double poster bed or 2 queen beds, a spacious dressing room and bathroom. The tents are all on wooden or stone decks with large verandahs and a private breakfast table, or ideal for a private yoga lesson. Food is innovative, fresh and healthy, locally sourced and picked from our own organic gardens.

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Climate

The Retreat lies at approximately 7000 ft above sea level. The days are warm and the nights are cool. The coolest period of the year is from May to September and the warmest period is between November and March. The altitude makes the area malaria free.

Activities

- Holistic and Creative retreats organized
- Private Yoga tuition on request
- Exceptional guided walks
- Explore the Englesha Forest or the Mukutan Gorge
- Wildlife hides overlooking the dam perfect for a picnic whilst waiting for game
- Sundowners, bush breakfasts or dinners
- Exceptional birding
- Bass, Tilapia Crayfish and Fishing
- Adventures
- Join in one of the Conservancy's projects or meet the communities
- Join our ecologist for the day and explore the subtleties of nature
- Music and Arts Events
- Longer walking safaris with a fly camp into little-explored areas and to visit the remote



Getting Here:

Air charters, to private airstrip, Englesha airstrip.
 Scheduled air service – daily flights to & from the Maasai Mara or Nairobi to Loisaba airstrip
 Helicopter: Altitude – 1764m ; N00°36.741" E 036°22.200"
 Access by road: Approx 4 hours from Nairobi, 2.5 Hours from Nakuru or Baringo.

What Makes us Totally Unique...

Pure wilderness and exclusivity ~ almost guaranteed not to see any other tourist vehicles

Bespoke Yoga and wellness retreats

The spectacular and unusual Mukutan Gorge

Breathtaking views and walks

Interesting conservancy activities

Location for Kuki Gallmann's Best Selling Book and Film "I Dreamed of Africa"

The little explored Engelesha Forest
Total Peace!

