



BEYOND THE LAND CRUISER

Being a tapestry of private or community-owned ranches and conservancies, the wealth of activities available in Laikipia go way beyond the regular game drive. Sue Watt suggests a few examples...



ENASOIT COLLECTION



EL KARAMA



STEVIE MANN / OL LENTILLE

Above, top to bottom:
Mountain biking from Enasoit Tented Camp;
On a guided walk at El Karama;
The Singing Wells ceremony from Ol Lentille

ON FOUR LEGS

Get up-close to wildlife by horseriding among undisturbed zebra herds or towers of giraffes across Laikipia's plains. Tack up at Sosian, El Karama, Borana and Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Or try a camel safari with 90-minute rides at Ol Lentille or on multi-day treks with Karisia.

ON TWO LEGS OR WHEELS

Walking safaris help you see the smaller things in the bush. Take Karisia's mobile safaris with local Maasai and Samburu guides to different camps each night or stay at Tumaren Camp as a base for day hikes and rock climbing. Explore the lush forests of Ngare Ndare,

a community-led conservation project on Mount Kenya's slopes, traversing its 450-metre canopy walk high above the forest floor.

Add wildlife to your walk by tracking rhino at Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Borana and Lewa, all famous for rhino conservation. Or walk with baboons with the Maasai women of Twala Tenebo or with a habituated troop, from Ol Lentille.

Runners can join the annual Lewa Safari Marathon across Lewa Conservancy or the For Rangers Ultra race, which covers an exhausting 230km over five days through Laikipia's conservancies.

For cyclists, several conservancies

offer adventurous mountain bike (or e-bike) safaris, including Enasoit Camp, Mugie, Loisaba, Borana and Ol Malo.

ON THE WATER

See wildlife from the water on the Ewaso Ng'iro River that flows through Laikipia. Try canoeing from Kicheche in Ol Pejeta or fishing for catfish and barbel at El Karama. Further north, kayak on the 156-acre Mugie Dam at Ekorian's Mugie Camp. Adventurous souls can try canyoning in Ngare Ndare Forest, abseiling its waterfalls, jumping into mountain pools and coursing its rivers.

EMBROILED IN CULTURE

Learn about Laikipia's traditional Maasai and Samburu people in sensitive cultural activities. At Ol Lentille, observe the ancient Singing Wells experience where Samburu warriors form a human chain to pass water from deep wells to their cattle, singing mesmerising chants. Il Ngwesi lodge and Tassia lodge, both owned and run by Mukogodo Maasai communities, offer respectful visits to local Maasai Cultural Bomas: learn about beading from local women, visit schools and enjoy their music and dancing.

Stepping out:
Try one of Karisia's multi-day camel-supported walking safaris in Tumaren conservation area

KARISIA WALKING SAFARIS

A land repurposed

In so many ways the Laikipia story is one of renewal, proof that working together with a shared long-term vision can result in significant change. These satellite images, from 2003 and 2025, show the environmental transformation of the area around Sirikoi, surrounded by Lewa Conservancy.

"When Willie and I secured this land for wildlife in 2001, there were maize fields and little wildlife," explains Sirikoi's Sue Roberts. "These two images hold the scale of that decision: farmland has become acacia woodland and wetlands (with an airstrip), 7,500 acres of black rhino habitat has been added to Lewa, and the lodge which helps to sustain the wider landscape. We've always believed that tourism and conservation should create value for wildlife and the people living alongside it."

