





avijiz

A HOME. A RETREAT. A SANCTUARY FOR ADVENTURE.



Arijju lies low on the land. The building behaves as though it has always been on that warm stone hillside with living, grassed roofs that move with the air and link it into the earth and forest. It is there but not there. Partly sculpted into the rock-bed, the subtle entrance opens into a fragrant, greened space with generous Swahili curves and an air of monastic calm. Walls of stone built on stone create vaulted walkways that lure you into cool shade and lead you towards dappled suntraps and Lamu daybeds. Beyond the main house, alongside a gnarled African Olive tree, a slice of pool hangs over the untamed wild of the Sieku valley in the Borana Lewa Conservancy – a thriving piece of the game-rich Kenyan Highlands and a true sanctuary for adventure.



"Our overriding philosophy was one of humility and respect for what was already there,


this meant making every effort for the building to become a part of

and blend into the beautiful natural surroundings"



ABOVE: Healthy, farm-to-fork menus with North African inspired salads, fresh smoothies and vegetable juices make for meals that awaken your palette and energise your body under the dapple of the Kenyan sun. MIDDLE: The infinity pool slices into the wild and delivers views of the waterhole loved by elephant and giraffe. RIGHT: Irregular graphic shadows and shapes lengthen across the extraordinary architecture throughout the day.

Laikipia Kenya



N 0° 21'38.1827" E 36° 46'55.0218"

The Laikipia County rolls north of snow-capped, glacier-licked Mount Kenya towards the rim of the Great Rift Valley. The plateau's 6500ft altitude and almost equatorial latitude brings gloriously temperate weather. Evenings are cool and days are typically long and warm. The geology surrounding Arijju is as diverse as the wildlife with distant mountain views of the Aberdares as well as forested valleys, riverine tracts and open grassy savannahs. Arijju lies in the eastern side of Laikipia within the famous Borana Conservancy, where the pure air, excellent training conditions and malaria-free environment comes with staggering big-five game experiences.

The Borana Lewa Conservancy is a 90 000 acre conservation archetype. Borana, Lewa and the neighbouring ranches and communities are pioneering a collaborative conservation approach that gives animals access to more wilderness and integrates free-range cattle ranching. Open fences and corridors now create safe passages for animals to follow their instinctive migrations while radio collars on elephant matriarchs and roaming lions help manage and divert human-wildlife conflict. The results speak for themselves – over the last twenty years Laikipia is the only part of Kenya where wildlife numbers are increasing.

The concept is artfully sustainable. Over 300 elephant, 334 bird species, flourishing lion prides along with cheetah, leopard, giraffe, buffalo and many endangered animals now migrate through or live in this wildlife safe haven. By visiting Arijju you personally help support and maintain the Conservancy's elephant migration corridors, lion research projects and the vital protection of resident black rhino.



the story of arijju

The family who built Arijju camped on this spectacular hillside to experience where the sun threw light shafts, where the breezes cooled the trees and how the iconic shape of Mount Kenya anchored the view. Their plan was for a home that worked with nature and reminded them of a childhood spent barefoot exploring in the wild. Arijju is just that and more. Having grown up in West Africa and Norway their combined passion for conservation and true wilderness experiences has inspired a home that can share and promote the protection of the African bush.





Arijju is a family home. Her architecture borrows romance from the Swahili vernacular, inspiration from the rock-hewn churches of Ethiopia and uses the Kenyan tradition of grouped rooms that can house multi-generations. Local stone, local timber and solar power help her tread lightly on the earth but, essentially, she is an anomaly. Her hand cut Meru stone, immense wooden, Lamu-style doors, functional ironmongery, copper accents and her grassed roofs make an iconic, contemporary living space that is also an incredibly comfortable place to be. Every detail in the main house feeds a love for raw materials, classic lines and longevity.

The main house has three bedroom suites that share a courtyard garden textured with wild herbs and billowing lavender. Light cuts across the space throughout the day creating graphic shadows and sanctuaries of cool on hot days. Walk around this garden and you'll reach the living space, library, kitchen then boot room, games room and cinema - all are linked by the vaulted walkways. Stroll on and you find the terraced pool area with dappled day-beds and an outdoor pool-bar. Beyond that, along a meandering path, you'll discover the spirit of Arijiju - The Retreat - a sanctuary for restoring the body.



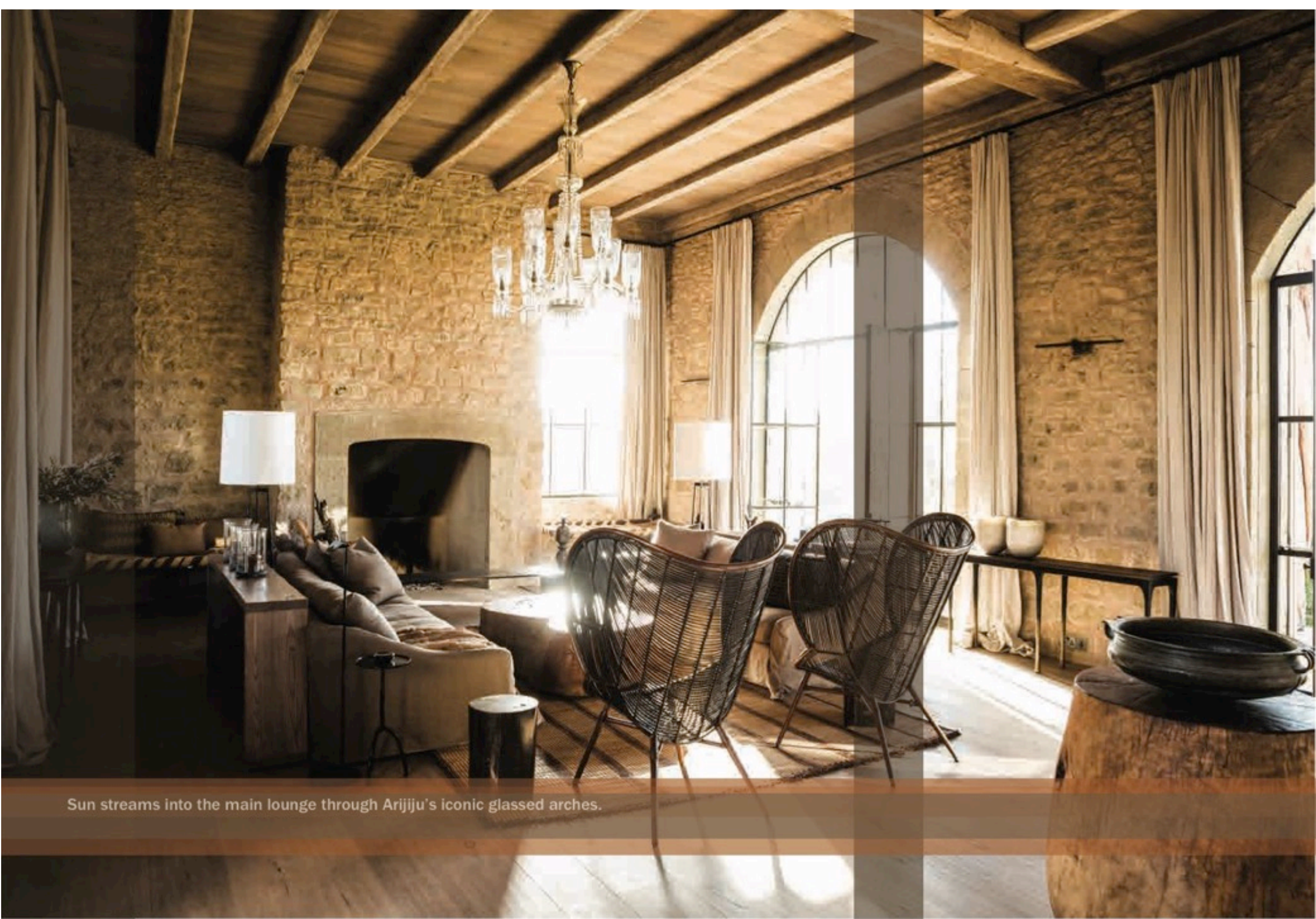
Outside the main dwelling, along paths cut into the rock are two very private, generous guest suite buildings. Their floor-to-ceiling glass doorways frame the immense forested views and outside, on their east-facing terraces, chairs hewn out of tree trunks grow blonde under the Kenyan sun.



Living areas



Arijju's main lounge and dining room are part of one elongated, double-volume space with walk-in fireplaces on each end. Beyond this jaw-dropping space lit by huge upended candles, a bar-counter, glinting with metallic details, invites you into another lounge and the perfect place to start an evening sipping a Negroni or a Moscow Mule served in chilled copper vessels.



Sun streams into the main lounge through Arijju's iconic glassed arches.



ABOVE: The two lounges, bar and dining room transform under the spell of lowlighting, candles and atmosphere

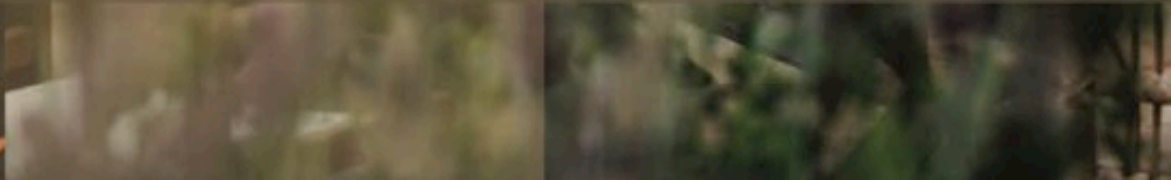
Dining

The Kitchen is central to the Arijju experience. Great care has been taken to build a menu using energy rich, quality ingredients and healthy, delicious recipes that regenerate and renew your sense of wellbeing. Farm-reared beef, garden herbs and vegetables pulled from the earth inspire the chefs to produce Ottolenghi style dining - it's gourmet but unfussy, visually gorgeous and loaded with wholesome flavour. Breakfasts are healthy and sumptuous with homemade muesli, daily smoothies and seasonal fruit plates that are usually served on the sun-drenched front terrace with views of elephants slaking their thirst at the waterhole below. Lunch is most often a relaxed Mediterranean style meal served at the long table alongside the pool or a rustic picnic somewhere in the wild if you're on a game drive. For dinner, the set-ups rove around the decks, terraces and rooftops.





ABOVE: Dining ranges from romantic and decadent safari dinners to blousy afternoon teas in the garden



comms and media



Arijju's elegant library is equipped to run a full office from. The large screen Macs, vast desk space, charging points and Wifi make sure that you can stay in touch as much as you choose to. It's also a great place to curl up on a couch and pretend to read a book.



Across the cloister, the games room has all the classic board games plus table football and loads of space to play in. There's also a full cinema with huge squashy couches to stretch out on - perfect for lazy, indulgent nights crunching popcorn and watching films.

the home

THE BATIAN MASTER SUITE // The Batian peak is the summit of the magnificent, once volcanic, Mount Kenya (17 057ft) and the highest point in the country. Batian is a derivative of Mbatian, the once famous Maasai Medicine Man and paramount chief.



With light and views streaming in from terraces on two sides through arabesque, glassed apertures, this master suite is beautifully composed. Rumpled, oversized linen, feather pillows, soft throws and an open fireplace give the room a homely feel, while the outdoor shower facing Mount Kenya reminds you of where you are in the world. Vast and open plan, the bed faces the valley and the lounge is a family of chairs gathered in front of the stone hearth. The front terrace lures you out with leather butterfly chairs and an unravelling skyline that inspires big thoughts.

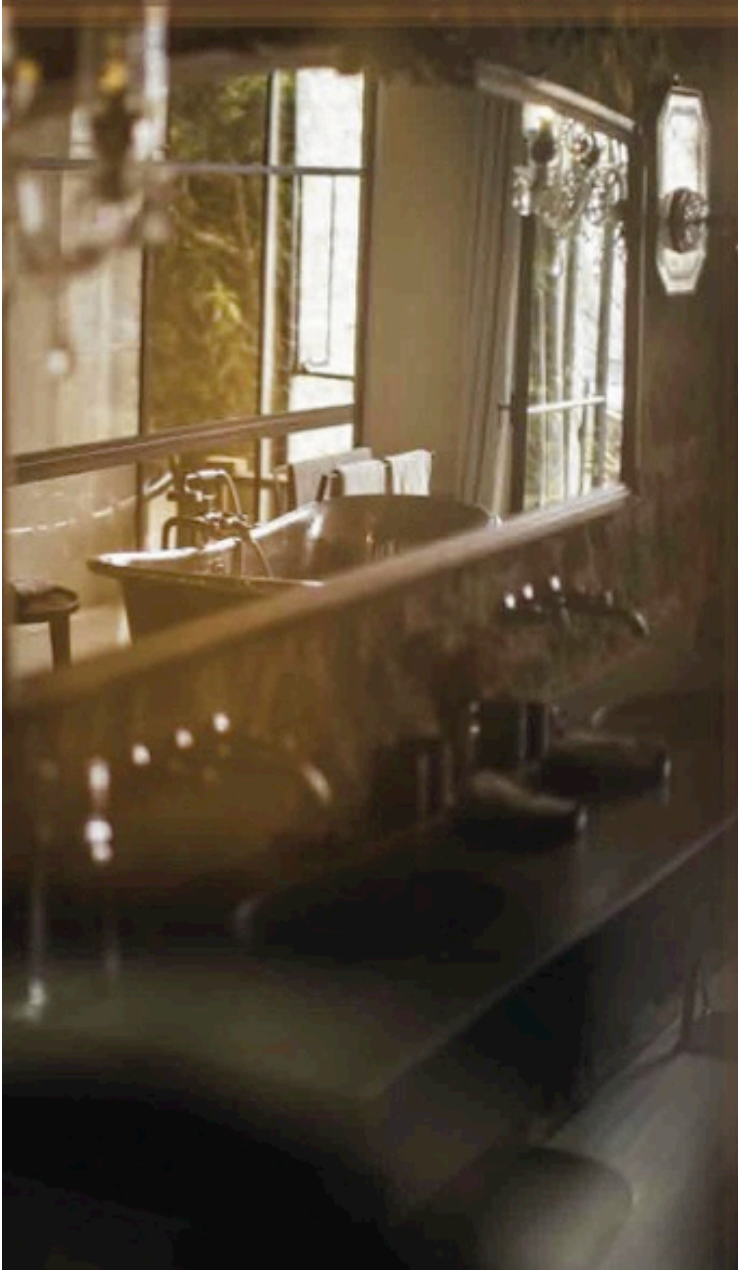


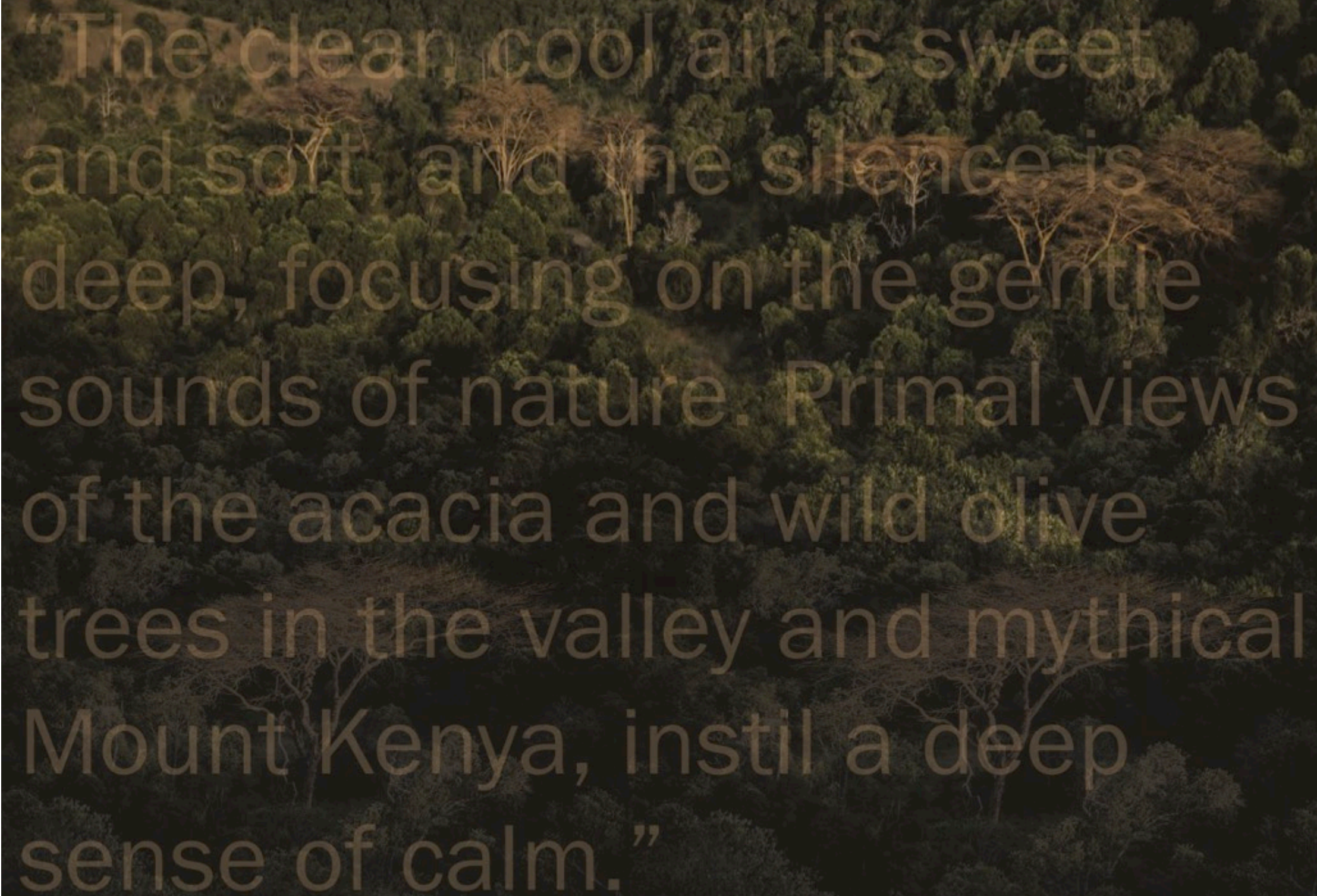
Every bedroom at Arijju is subtly different but what they all have in common is king size beds and impressive leather desks, deep copper baths, indoor and outdoor showers with perfumed soaps, huge lush towels and great pieces of furniture. Sandalwood candles, crystal wall lights, copper details and an edited palette of soft toned furnishings complete the sense of understated luxury. Hot water bottles and raging fires keep you snug on cooler evenings while wake up calls are made gentler with Masala tea or steaming coffees brought to your room.



THE NELION ROOM// The Nelion peak is Mount Kenya's second highest volcanic spire and, at just 10metres below the summit, it is a challenging technical climb requiring serious multi-terrain rock skills. Nelion is named after Neiling, the brother of Mbatian, a legendary Maasai medicine man.

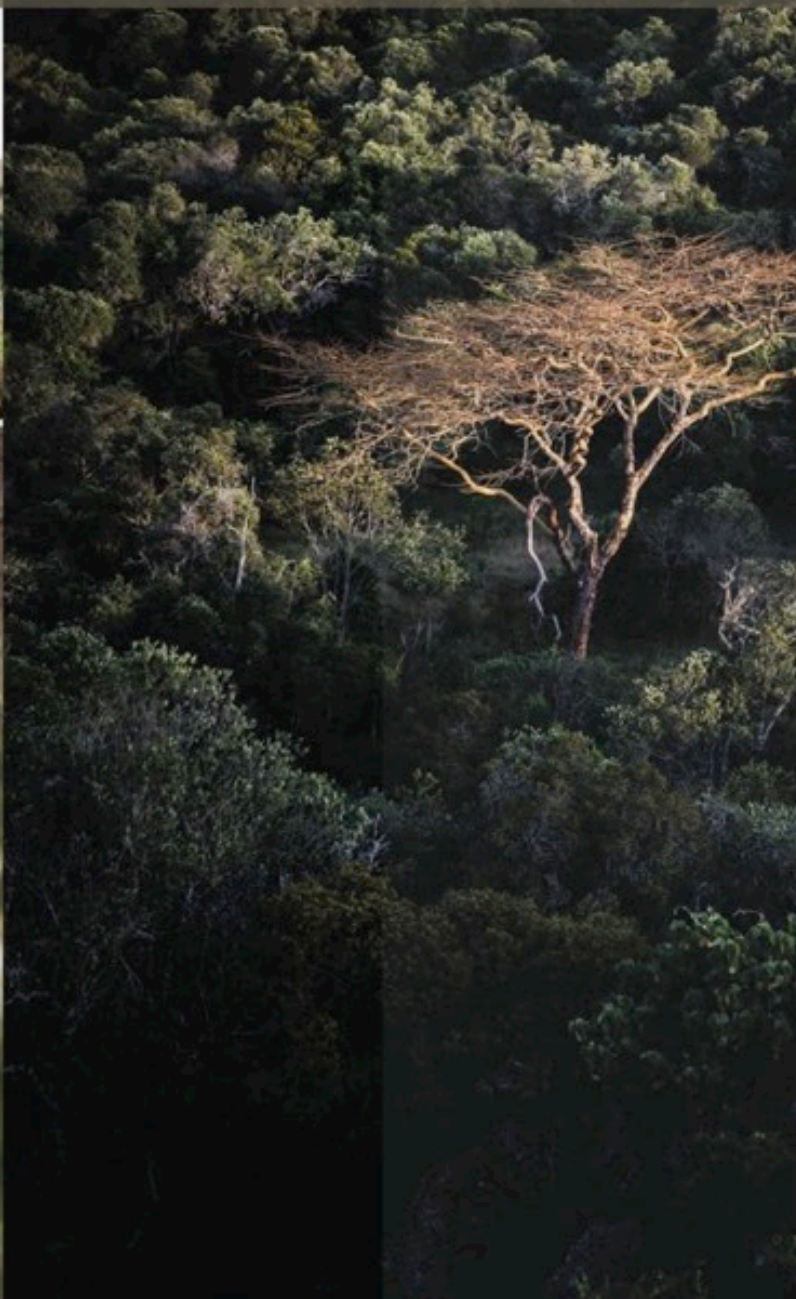
THE LENANA ROOM // Point Lenana is the third highest peak of Mount Kenya and the trek to reach it is a beautiful, non-technical climb through layers of climatic zones – from lush bamboo forests on the slopes into glaciated ridges. Lenana was the son of Mbatian and the heir to his legacy and chieftdom.



An aerial photograph of a dense forest, likely in Kenya, featuring a mix of green and brownish trees, possibly acacia and wild olive. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, semi-transparent font.

“The clean, cool air is sweet and soft, and the silence is deep, focusing on the gentle sounds of nature. Primal views of the acacia and wild olive trees in the valley and mythical Mount Kenya, instil a deep sense of calm.”

A short walk from the main house along their own rustic earth and stone paths are The Ngare Ndare and The Mukogodo Suites. Partly cut into the hill with grasses and wild flowers spilling over the edges of the architecture, both rooms have beautiful proportions. Each one has an elegant stone fireplace, four-poster bed and lounge area with an elegant sofa that can be folded into extra sleeping space when needed. The bathrooms are immense and encourage long cleansing rituals with gorgeous salts and soaps.



THE NGARE NDARE SUITE // The Ngare Ndare Forest Trust has the only expanding indigenous forest canopy in Kenya. It is a vital, thriving corridor that links the Lewa Conservancy with Mount Kenya Forest Reserve.

THE MUKOGODO SUITE // This 70 000 acre indigenous forest reserve has over 170 botanic species including olives and cedars dripping with lichens, ferns and orchids and loved by rare butterflies and birds.



the constellation suite

***Talk quietly with your host about reserving a one-of-a-kind, one-night-only suite.





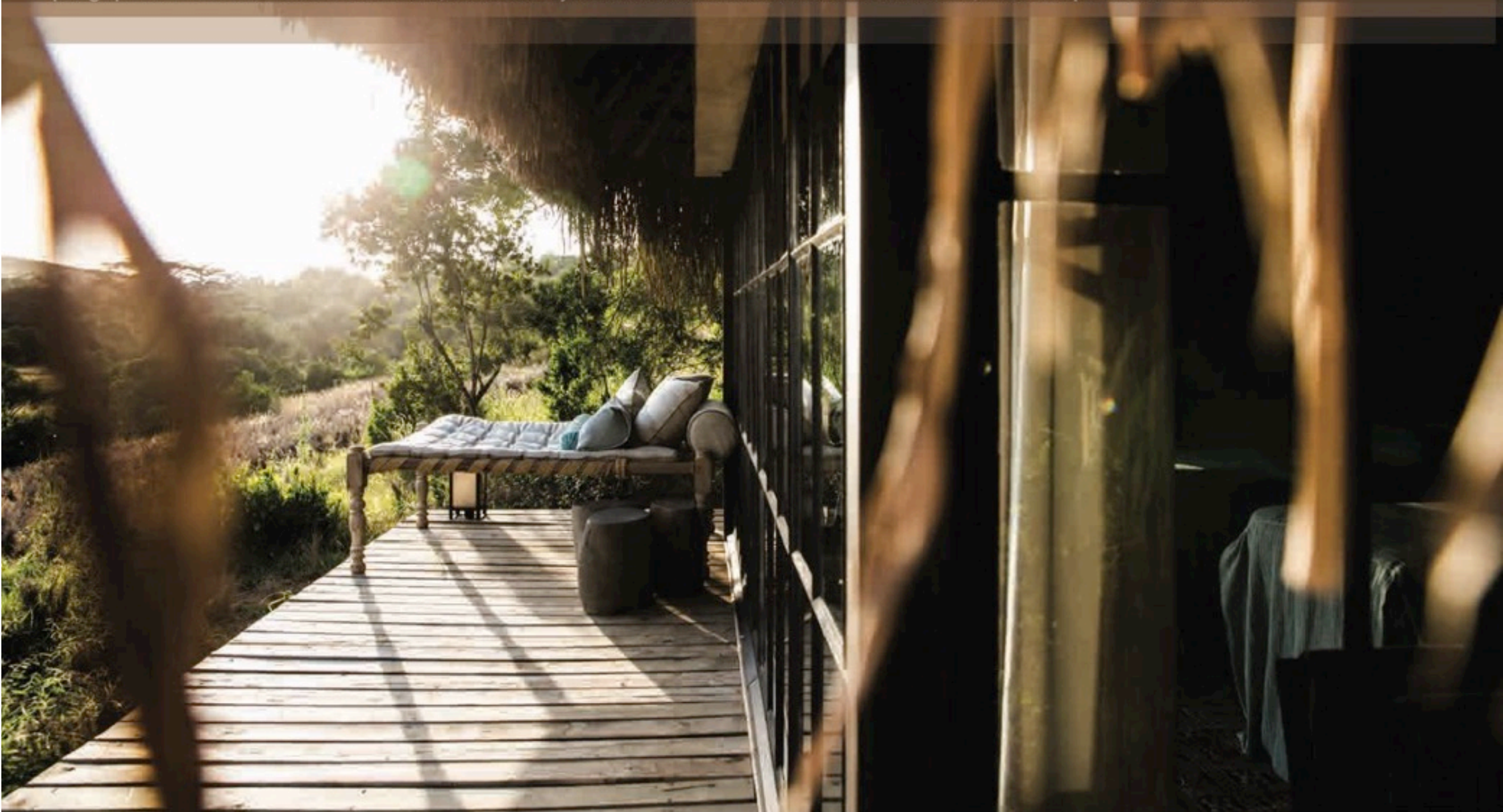
the retreat

Arijju has re-invented the traditional safari by creating an irresistible wellness experience. The climate, clean air, organic food and high altitude make incredible foundations for a trip that will truly restore you – while the Retreat will inspire you to work-out, reward and relax your body in a totally new way.



The Retreat is a cluster of traditionally styled, makuti-thatched structures that are carbon-efficient, sustainably built and designed to let you connect with nature. Each building has been engineered to best suit a ritual for restoring your body. Follow the walkway through the indigenous plants and you pass a wood-burning hot tub, then the Gym that opens up into the view of the wild. It's fully kitted with free weights, a treadmill and rowing machine, spinning bike, boxing and TRX equipment as well as wellness balls – so you can work out any way you choose.

Beyond the Gym is the Yoga studio or chill-out space with open, meditative views across the valley. Further along is the elegant Spa House with a vaulted hamam, cold plunge pool and rain shower and then below it, surrounded by acacias and the calm solitude of the wilderness, is the tranquil Treatment Room.





The Arijiju therapist's signature concoctions of Kenyan honey and coconut milk facials, her hand ground salt scrubs and deep tissue massages are the perfect reward after a mountain bike adventure, a hard workout in the gym or even just a long day basking in the Kenyan sunshine.

BELOW: Fresh Pineapple Juices. The open-sided Gym with free weights, a treadmill and rowing machine, spinning bike, TRX equipment, wellness balls and boxing kit.



Adventures

ARIJIJU ADVENTURES

At Arijiju there is no schedule. You'll get loads of inspiration about how to fill your days but you can curate the adventures to suit you – choose to drive, run, walk, ride, fly or simply soak in the environment. Add a wild journey beyond the Conservancy or restore your spirit by simply being in the wild, eating good food and reconnecting with good friends.

SAFARI DRIVES

Go on your own private safari - take a game drive in an open sided 4x4 with an experienced ranger who will help you read the bush like a book. Venture into the diverse landscape of the Conservancy to seek out lions, buffalo, elephant and cheetah while you learn more about the environment and the unique eco-system.

BUSH WALKS

See, smell and feel the bush as a creature does by exploring the Conservancy on foot with your ranger. Watch elephant graze from a safe distance, crush wild rosemary between your fingers and follow the tracks and trails made by antelope on their daily migrations.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

Cycling through the wild savannahs, rugged tracks and rocky outcrops of the Conservancy is exhilarating and unique. The subtle silence of the bikes allows you to approach herds of antelope, see giraffe and even elephant.

RUN WILD

Running in the wild is a rare thrill only possible in a handful of places in the world. Choose from a range of adrenalin-fuelled routes – the most challenging is the 24km Arijju Trail – you set the pace and a support vehicle and ranger will keep track of you and your safety.

HORSE RIDING

Riding on the Conservancy is a real highlight. There are horses for all levels of experience so you can take your kids for a fun ride on Patent Safety Horses, go out on a quick hack or, if you're a confident rider, why not canter with a dazzle of zebra or ride alongside the majestic African elephant?



MOUNT KENYA

Acclimatise and train at Arijju then tackle this three million year-old mountain on foot - it's a great three or four day trip (best time: July-September). If you're short of time but keen on adventure choose to charter a helicopter or fixed wing plane to witness the drama of this 17 057 ft mountain from the air.

BUGGIES AND QUAD-BIKES

Book a sand buggy or quad-bike trip and follow exhilarating routes that normal vehicles can't take along beautiful, dry riverbeds. Sleep out overnight or plan a day-trip.

NGARE NDARE FOREST

Book a full day out and drive to the edge of the Conservancy and into the verdant Ngare Ndare Forest Reserve. Hike to the waterfalls, go for a swim in the turquoise pools then take a lush canopy walk using suspension bridges hung between the forest's ancient trees followed by lunch on a platform in amongst the leaves.



HELICOPTER SAFARIS

Charter a flip over the Conservancy and track herds of wild animals, see the multiple summits of Mount Kenya from the air, watch the flamingos shimmer on the shores of Lake Nakuru or even arrange a fly camp in a remote location.

FLY FISHING

Take a trip or flip to Lake Alice on the slopes of Mount Kenya where you can fish for trout in the tranquil river pools, feast on a picnic lunch while you bird watch and otter spot and even camp out overnight at the little fishing cabins.




visit

ARIJJU TEAM


Behind the scenes, fourteen resident staff members keep everything at Arijju running smoothly and looking just right. Charming butlers, talented chefs, private game rangers, running guides, green-fingered groundskeepers, cheery housekeepers and alert security are co-ordinated by your experienced host and Arijju's Mangeress, Karina Jessop along with her delightful dogs Lula and Digby.





Arijju is available for rent on an exclusive basis only. The five bedroom suites are absolutely perfect for up to ten guests – either one or two families or up to five couples. To discuss your stay at Arijju please contact your charming host Karina Jessop on karina@arjiju.com

Fact sheets

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a thorny acacia branch, likely from a species found in the Borana Conservancy. The branch is covered in numerous sharp, light-colored thorns that catch the light. The background is a soft-focus mix of green and brown, suggesting a natural, arid environment.

GETTING TO ARIJJU

You can reach Arijju by shared scheduled flights to the Lewa Airstrip (90 minutes away) or private charter to the Borana Airstrip (15 minutes away) or helicopter directly to the house, or by road transfer (around a four hour drive from Nairobi via Nanyuki).

CLIMATE

At 6500ft above sea level Arijju has a moderate climate with highs ranging from 22°C to 32°C and night lows ranging from 14°C to 10°C. Across Kenya there are two wet and two dry seasons - the long, cool-dry season is July to October while the short, hot-dry season is in January and February. In the wetter months, the bleached grasses green up and the arrival of newborns lures those looking for quiet, exclusive trips. Bird lovers should book from April-October when rare bird migrations arrive.

CHILDREN

Children of all ages are welcome at Arijju. While it is not recommended to take babies under three-years-old on game vehicles Arijju has experienced baby sitters, tailored menus and great junior explorer entertainment.

SECURITY

The Borana Conservancy is patrolled 24/7 by experienced game wardens. The Arijju property is encircled with in-obtrusive game fences and cattle grids to prevent wild animals from entering the grounds.

ARIJUU DIMENSIONS

THE BATIAN SUITE

1298 sqft (Master suite) with King size bed and double sofa bed, bath, inside and outside showers (external terrace 610 sqft)

THE NELION ROOM

860 sqft with King size bed and double sided fireplace, bath, inside and outside showers (external terrace 205 sqft)

THE LENANA ROOM

860 sqft with King size bed and double sided fireplace, bath, inside and outside showers (external terrace 215 sqft)

LIVING SPACES

Games Room and Cinema Room - 951 sqft

Boot Room - 263 sqft

Library - 640 sqft

Breakfast/Evening Bar - 1014sqft

Dining/Living Room - 1294 sqft

Outdoor Dining area - 560 sqft

Guest Kitchen Area - 490 sqft

Central Courtyard and Colonnade - 5350 sqft



ARIJIJU DIMENSIONS

THE NGARE NDARE GUEST HOUSE

1273 sqft with King size bed (confirm size) and double sofa bed, bath and indoor shower plus external shower area - 160 sqft and external terrace - 350 sqft

THE MUKOGODO GUEST HOUSE

1273 sqft with King size bed (confirm size) and double sofa bed, bath and indoor shower plus external Shower area -125 sqft and external Terrace - 440 sqft

POOL TERRACE

Infinity Lap Pool 4.06m x 20m

Outdoor dining area fitted with pizza oven and BBQ

Outdoor shower, WC

Firewood heated Dutch-tub - 170cm diameter (4 person capacity)

ROOF TERRACE

3,090 sqft with soft seating area, hanging chairs and Lamu beds



THE RETREAT SPECIFICATIONS

GYM

Stretching mats
Free Weights
Spinning bike
Technogym treadmill
Rowing machine
TRX equipment
Boxing equipment
Wellness Balls

YOGA DECK

Stretching mats
Cushions and supports

SPA HOUSE

Changing room
Hamam
Cold plunge pool
Indoor and outdoor shower
WC

TREATMENT HUT

Two massage beds
Deck with daybed



A zebra stands in a savanna landscape under a warm, golden light. In the background, a city skyline is visible, with its buildings appearing as dark, semi-transparent overlays on the zebra's body and the landscape. The overall mood is serene yet adventurous.

avijju

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BY CROOKESANDJACKSON.COM