

Word of mouth

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A roaring success

AFRICA Two dramatic new lodges introduce style and luxury to a remote region in northern Kenya

Two to watch

The Samburu National Reserve is best known for big lodges and group tours, but the recently opened **Sasaab** and **Saruni Samburu**, just outside the park, have brought intimate luxury to this famously arid region. Both lodges are linked to the Northern Rangelands Trust, which was set up to help communities protect the local wildlife, and both have outstanding views over the northern Kenyan wilderness.

Sasaab – the latest project by the Carr-Hartleys, specialists in upmarket mobile safaris – overlooks the Ewaso Ngiro River in the West Gate Community Conservancy. The nine spacious lodges have thatched roofs, Moroccan-style interiors and private plunge pools.

Saruni Samburu, the twin camp of Saruni in the Masai Mara, overlooks a waterhole in the Kalama Conservancy. It has four concrete-and-canvas houses with a subtle oriental flavour, and an infinity pool for cooling down in.

The wildlife up here is worth getting excited about – there are leopards not seen down south, the endangered Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe and Somali ostrich – but it's the landscape that steals the show. **LISA JOHNSON**
Sasaab (00 254 20 892234; www.sasaab.com) from US\$530 per person per night, all-inclusive (accommodation, all meals, drinks and game drives).
Saruni Samburu (00 254 20 603090; www.sarunisamburu.com) from £380 per person for three nights (opening offer until 31 December), all-inclusive

Clockwise from top left: camel ride at Sasaab; Saruni Samburu; Sasaab reception area and plunge pool; zebra at Saruni Samburu; lounge at Sasaab

