



THE PERFECT FAMILY DESTINATION

El Karama Lodge is a family-owned lodge known for its warm, fun and unspoilt wildlife and landscapes. The team has developed an education programme and adventure activities especially for families on safari. Aimed at children of all ages, our activities originate from the wild and artistic family life of the owners who live there, Sophie and Murray Grant, and their passion for the natural world.

From Sophie Grant, sustainability specialist, co-founder of El Karama Lodge and mother of two bush kids.



WHAT DO WE DO, WHY DO WE DO IT:

Simply put, as parents who love adventure and exploring with our children, Murray and I know what it is like to travel to new and exciting places with small children. Our family loves the outdoors and we are passionate about sharing our bush life at El Karama with families who visit our lodge. Forget everything you think you know about safaris: this environment is like a playground albeit, it a very wild one, for your family! Nothing is off limits to children on safari, it just needs to be adapted and innovated to suit the ages and interests of your kids.

We want you to feel free and happy in this wild place and so our resident naturalists and guest hosts will use all their natural charm and passion to make you feel at ease so that the magic of this place is brought alive for you all.



The El Karama experience is about getting out there, feeling the sand under your feet, understanding the environment that surrounds you and learning from our guides all the strange and wonderful bits of knowledge they have to share. Whether you enjoy eating your meals on warm rocks watching the sunset, tracking or mud wallowing by the river or waking up at dawn near an open fire and hearing the sounds of the bush all around you. We can tailor your stay to combine the real holiday feeling of sunny days splashing around in the pool with watching wildlife, eating delicious picnics by the river and visiting the farm to get to know the baby calves and lambs and to pick your own!

Our team, known for their warmth and charm, lead all the experiences and will show you what true Kenyan hospitality really is. Their main aim will be to unplug your kids, bringing them lovingly back to nature. They will interact with different cultures and be encouraged to immerse fully in the day to day life of this wildlife ranch. From fishing to foraging, sculpting to baking, making tooth brushes and bows and arrows from the bush, tracking and cast making, it's all about good, hearty family fun in the wild, guided by experienced Kenyans. On arrival children will receive a little mini ranger welcome pack made up of little gifts to make them feel special on their safari!

The real thing: days of fun and adventure, ending with warm baths under the stars and cosy rooms where they feel safe and happy.



WHY WE ARE PERFECT FOR FAMILIES

KID'S ACTIVITIES – THE EL KARAMA BUSH SCHOOL

Our Bush School runs from 10am -12:30am each day, it is fun and informal and of course parents are always welcome. All outings and activities will be adapted to the ages of the children and their interests and our dedicated team are always on hand to entertain and have fun with your kids.

Activities include:

- Wildlife tracking with resident naturalist
- Paw print cast making
- ID kits for predator project
- Farm visits to our Ranch farm to meet the dairy cows and visit the garden
- Our new Potting Shed area is there for kids to learn about digging and planting and picking their own vegetables
- Hand line fishing at the dams for catfish and barbell
- Game drives (which can be reduced and tailored to your kid's interests with more time spent out on rocks, under the trees etc.)
- Game viewing at the rock hide for hippo, swimming ellies and much more!
- Trail camera use, wildlife monitoring
- Tracking walks / Poo Safaris learning about tracks signs and spoor
- Swimming: we have two pools, one shallow baby pool for kids and a large oval pool for family fun. The pool is pioneering in Kenya and contains NO chemicals, salt or chlorine: nicer for your children and for the wildlife that comes to drink from the pool!
- Cooking in our interactive open kitchen to explore the flavours and colours of local produce
- Painting and sculpting in termite clay



KIDDIE FRIENDLY MEAL TIMES

- Meals and meal times can be adapted to each family's needs so even the fussiest of eaters are looked after!
- Bush meals including dinner and breakfast with open fire cooking are always a highlight for kids and parents
- We can arrange for your kids to have supper on your afternoon game drive whilst you enjoy your sundowner
- Adults can then enjoy a quiet meal together whilst a member of staff sits at your room while your children are sleeping. They carry a 24 hr radio so they can call you directly at the slightest whimper!

FAMILY FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION

Our **family cottage**, which we call our Hobbit House, is designed with families in mind and has a Swiss Family Robinson feel! Comprising a central double bed, separate twin room and two little single beds in the eaves. The house is heaven for children and allows you to be all together in one house.

Our new **River Cottages** are spacious enough to include camp beds and cots for younger kids and for teens, both neighbouring river cottages can be booked together as an exclusive family camp with its own dining room and kitchen so you can relax in the space.

Fly camping and bush sleep outs are without doubt one of the highlights of a stay at El Karama and often the thing which people are still talking about when they get home. Our floating Tentsile Tree Tents are not only highly comfortable but great fun and ideal for a family's first night fly camping under the African sky. Bell tents are also available with camp beds for those who are less mobile or who prefer a little more canvas!



FAMILY FRIENDLY RATES

We have special rates and discounts for families applying through the year.

- 3 and under go completely free
- Kids 4-12 years 50% discount
- Teens 12-18 years 25% discount

We are also wanting to encouraging families to enjoy one nights fly-camping and so are offering a special 4 for 3 on accommodation for 2019.

