

Spend 1 day in Nairobi Itinerary.

[Inquire for reservation](#)

Stop 1: Giraffe Centre @ 9:00am

Your first stop is the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife Giraffe Centre. The center has been successful in breeding the Rothschild's giraffe, an endangered subspecies of giraffe found only in East Africa. The center was established in the 1970's by Jock and [Betty Leslie-Melville](#), and in addition to the breeding, conservation, and release of giraffes, it also provides education to the public.



After arrival, you will be given a handful of pellets that you can feed to the giraffes from a large viewing platform. The platforms are raised so that you are standing face-to-face with the adult giraffes, and you can offer the giraffes pellets by hand.

The highlight here is definitely getting up-close views of these beautiful long-legged animals. But to get the most of your visit don't forget to look down to spot the resident warthogs, learn about the giraffes by listening to one of the free educational talks or lectures, and take a walk along the Giraffe Centre Nature Trail that begins just across the road.

Do be aware that this is a VERY popular stop for school groups and tour groups. So it can get busy here so you may need to be patient.

A visit here averages about 30 minutes, but allow longer if you really want to explore the nature trails. The center is normally open daily for public tours and visits from 9:00am – 5.00 pm. You can book tickets in advance but it is not necessary and you can also purchase them on site.

Stop 2: Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Elephant Orphanage @ 10:30am

Your second stop during your day in Nairobi is to visit the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust elephant orphanage. [David Sheldrick](#) was a game warden and pioneer conservationist in Kenya. His wife Daphne established the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, an elephant and rhino nursery and sanctuary, in his name in his memory in the late 1970s following his death.



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Located within a section of Nairobi National Park, the [Sheldrick Wildlife Trust](#) provides care and a home to dozens of orphaned baby elephants and rhinos from all over the country with the goal of being able to release them back into the wild. If you haven't read Daphne Sheldrick's memoir, *Love, Life, and Elephants*, we highly recommend reading it before your visit here.

Visitors can visit daily at 11:00am to watch the public feedings of the young elephants and learn more about the mission of the trust. Although the feedings begin at 11:00am, you are advised to arrive and check-in at least 15 minutes early.

After a brief introduction, the first group of about 20 baby elephants will be led into the fenced off area, these are the youngest of the elephants. You get to watch as they are fed bottles by the handlers, play in the water and dirt, and roam around the area. If you are lucky, you might get a chance to touch one if it comes up to the rope, but you need to be careful as they weigh a ton.

After the first group is taken away, another group of about 20 older young elephants is led in and the feeding process repeated. During the feeding, a staff member with a microphone explains the goals of the trust and gives you some information about the individual resident baby elephants and rhinos (if there are any rhinos).

Elephant and rhino poaching is very much still a problem in Kenya. Drought has also become one of the biggest factors in recent years.

The cost of raising just one orphan elephant or rhino is very expensive and the organization depends on donations and fundraising projects. For those who want to contribute more to protecting the elephants, anyone can make a [donation to adopt an orphan](#) for a minimum annual donation of \$50 (£35). Donors then receive monthly detailed information and updates about their orphan.

Note that starting in March 2020, due to the pandemic, only guests who have confirmed pre-booked reservations have been allowed to visit. This is being done to control visitor numbers and ensure the safety of both the animals and visitors. They are also only accepting cash for payment on arrival.

At last check, advanced reservations are mandatory. The entry fee is \$20 (USD) or 2,000 shillings (KES) per person and must be paid upon entry in cash (or by Mpesa).

So if you are visiting here, be sure to check the [current entry requirements](#) and booking guidelines before visiting. We recommend making your reservation or booking your guided tour before you leave home to ensure you can visit. If you are visiting with a tour, they will likely help you sort this out but you may still need to bring cash to pay the entry fee if the entrance is not included in your tour price.

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Stop 3: Utamaduni Shops @ 12:15am

Make a quick stop at Utamaduni Shops, formerly the Utamaduni Craft Centre, so that you can peruse the large number of craft items and souvenirs. This is a common short stop for many tours to give visitors a chance to shop or get a cup of coffee.



There are both outdoor stalls as well as a much larger indoor store. You can find a bit of everything here, including wood carvings, soaps, slippers, clothing, children's items, and jewelry. The Steetwise stall in front of the building sells a number of inexpensive locally made items and all sales from that shop benefit the disadvantaged youth who made the items. You can find out more here on [their website](#).

For those who want to do some serious souvenir shopping, leave more time as there are a number of small rooms and a lot of merchandise on offer here. It is our recommended place to stop if you only have time to shop at only one place in Nairobi.

There is a cafe and restaurant located at Utamaduni Shops that serves meals, snacks, and drinks. So can be a good place to stop for coffee or lunch. There is also a small children's play area.

Stop 4: Karen Blixen Museum @ 1:00pm

After the souvenir shop, you have a choice of whether to head to lunch or to the Karen Blixen Museum to do a house tour and visit the grounds in about an hour. But you could easily reverse the two and eat lunch first.



The Karen Blixen Museum is housed in the farmhouse where Danish author [Karen Blixen](#) (penname Isak Dinesen) lived from 1914 to 1931. The house was built in 1912, and later bought by Karen and her husband Baron Bror von Blixen Fincke when they began a coffee plantation. Blixen and her coffee farm became well-known because of the book she wrote about her experiences in Kenya and the 1985 film adaptation *Out of Africa*, starring Robert Redford and Meryl Streep.

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Join a guided group tour of the house which includes the interior of the house, the detached kitchen, and a small portion of the grounds. The house is much smaller than expected but includes original furniture that belonged to Blixen, including the famous cuckoo clock, as well as some movie props used in the filming of *Out of Africa*.

The tour lasts about 40 – 45 minutes and then visitors are allowed to explore the grounds and gift shop on their own. The great views of the Ngong Hills that Blixen often commented on in her book remain, and it is nice to just walk around the property and notice other things that Blixen wrote about in her book.

Opening hours are typically from 9:30am to 6:00pm daily. You can buy tickets in person on arrival. Photography is not permitted inside the house.

Stop 5: Karen Blixen Coffee Gardens @ 2:00pm

Stop for a late and leisurely lunch at the Karen Blixen Coffee Gardens. The restaurant and an associated lodge sit on property that was once part of the large coffee estate that belonged to Karen Blixen and her husband.



The restaurant is quite large and is open daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They also have a bar and lounge area. You have your choice of dining areas, including both indoor and outdoor dining.



The menu contains a mix of Western and Indian dishes, plus a few local Kenyan dish options. Try a bit of everything from samosas to hamburgers to whole grilled tilapia with ugali. There have always been several seafood options as well as meat and vegetarian dishes. Food and service here have always been good.

Even if you don't want to have a meal here, you might consider a stop here for coffee or drinks before or after a visit to the nearby Karen Blixen Museum. You can also view the exterior of the historic houses here, including the Swedo House and Grogan MacMillan Manor House.

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Reservations are generally recommended but not necessary for coffee or lunch unless you have a large group, but are recommended for dinner. If you want to eat at Babette's (their fine dining restaurant) then it is a good idea to make a reservation in advance for lunch or dinner.

Stop 6: Kazuri Beads @ 3:30pm

The last stop of your tour is at Kazuri Beads factory and store. Kazuri Beads makes ceramic handpainted beads, ornaments, and pottery. It was started in 1975 as a business to employ local single mothers and now has grown to employ around 300 people. The word *kazuri* means "small and beautiful" in Swahili.

When you arrive a guide will take you on a free tour of the factory. You will get to see how they make the beads and pottery, learning about the how whole process, from mixing the clay to hand painting the beads to adding the final touches. The tour takes about 30 minutes and is definitely worth doing if you have the time.

At the end of the tour, you are, of course, led to the Kazuri Beads shop and left to browse on your own. Although they are best known for their beaded jewelry, they also make and sell other items such as ceramic tableware, pots, and ornaments.

This is a great place to support. You can purchase something for yourself as a souvenir or to give as a gift when you get back home. After finishing your visit to Kazuri Beads, you will be taken back to your hotel so you can rest.



NOTE: Kazuri Beads was hit hard by COVID-19 as it closed down and many of the workers were laid off during the closure and then was slow to rebound due to a huge dip in tourism. The previous location used for its factory and shop was sold to Sandstorm Kenya (luxury leather company) and another similar company KobeTough opened in 2020 and makes competitive products with former employees. But luckily Kazuri has survived and has rebuilt and reopened in a new location.

Kazuri Beads factory and shop is now located on Laganta Road (this is about a 10 minute drive from its former location). At the new location, there is also a small restaurant/cafe here where you can get coffee, tea, drinks, and lunch.

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Stop 7: (later in evening): Carnivore Restaurant for Dinner @ 7:00pm

After a break of a couple of hours, you will then be picked up to head to Carnivore for dinner. Carnivore is probably the best known restaurant in Nairobi and serves “a beast of a feast”. It is a restaurant focused on roasted and grilled meats that are cooked over a large charcoal fire on Maasai swords.

The restaurant became famous for offering a number of exotic meats; however, game laws changed in Kenya and they now only serve farmed meat. You can still find meats like crocodile and ostrich on the menu alongside more familiar ones like beef, chicken, lamb, and pork.

The meal is served differently than in most other restaurants. You start with soup, then salads and sauces are brought, then baked potatoes, and then a parade of different meats. You can eat for as long as wish. You need to put down the flag at your table when you “surrender” and don’t want any more meat. Then, if you can still manage to eat anything, dessert is served!



The price of your meal includes all your food, but it does not include any drinks that you order. Dawa is a popular vodka-based cocktail that was invented here and the house special. You can make reservations, but these are often not necessary unless you are a large group.

This is obviously a popular restaurant with tourists and a bit kitschy, You certainly want to be hungry when you go here to make the most of it.

If you are looking for transportation to Carnivore, there are options you can book that include pick up at your hotel, your meal, and return drop-off at your lodging.

If you are looking for a place to stay in Nairobi, [Tamarind Tree Hotel](#) is a particularly convenient option if you are planning to have dinner at Carnivore. The restaurant is located on the hotel grounds so you can just walk here and do not need to worry about booking transport or taking a taxi.

From \$150 per person

*Prices may differ or fluctuate depending on the size of the group

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Included

- Karen Blixen Museum
- Elephant Orphanage and Giraffe Center Entrance fee
- Pick up and drop off within Nairobi

Not inclusive of:

- Small Group Tour Lunch (own expense)
- Pay extra \$45 per person for Nairobi National park which is mandatory to access elephant orphanage

Cancellation Policy

You can cancel up to 24 hours in advance of the experience for a full refund. For a full refund, you must cancel at least 24 hours before the experience's start time. If you cancel less than 24 hours before the experience's start time, the amount you paid will not be refunded. Any changes made less than 24 hours before the experience's start time will not be accepted. Cut-off times are based on the experience's local time.