



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE MINISTRY OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC),
THE ASALS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

State Department for the ASALs and
Regional Development

PASTORAL TOURISM CIRCUITS IN THE ASALS OF KENYA
*KENYAN ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS - THE NEXT FRONTIER FOR
DEVELOPMENT*

Opportunities in ASALs

- Pastoral Tourism circuits in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) offer unique experiences that highlight diverse traditional lifestyles and cultures of pastoralist communities.
- The region occupies approximately 91.2% of the country's landmass.
- Home to about 42.2% of the population who mostly derive their livelihood from pastoralism and other natural resources.
- Hosts about 70% of the national livestock herd with an estimated value Ksh. 146 billion.
- Pastoralism the main occupation of the communities accounts for about 90% of employment in the ASALs and over 95% of family incomes.

Opportunities from Pastoral Tourism in ASALs

Pastoral Tourism is one of the leading sectors in foreign exchange earnings and employment and ASALs hosts over 90% of tourism products which include:

- National Parks,
- Game Reserves
- UNESCO Accredited World Heritage Sites
- Community-driven Wildlife Conservancies
- Diverse Wildlife
- Beautiful Landscapes
- Beaches
- Diverse culture

Opportunities from Pastoral Tourism in ASALs

- The Pastoral Tourism circuits offer a deep and authentic understanding of the diverse cultures, traditions, and lifestyles of pastoralist communities in Kenya's ASAL regions.
- Kenya is among the top tourist destinations in Africa owing to its global reputation as a leading safari destination to its magnificent wildlife and the memorable experience it provides for tourists.
- The wildlife is considered the lifeline to the country's economy.
- Indeed, wildlife tourism can best be described as 'the proverbial goose that lays golden eggs in the Kenyan economy'.

1. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Turkana County

Visit Turkana to learn about:

- Tobong'u Lore and Lokiriama; Translating to Welcome Home, an annual event held in Turkana County to celebrate their rich cultural heritage
- Traditional huts (ekai), and daily routines
- Explore the world's largest desert lake (Lake Turkana), known as the "Jade Sea" for its stunning turquoise colour and engage in fishing or boat rides with local fishermen. -
- Ngamia (camel) festivals: Participate in or observe local festivals celebrating camels, A vital part of Turkana culture.

1. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Turkana County

- Rock art: visit ancient rock art sites that depict the rich history and culture of the region.
- Discover 'Cradle of mankind'; Koobi Fora , a place around Lake Turkana a hominid fossils was discovered and believed to be key in human evolution.

Turkana Cultural Festival - Tobong'u Lore



Photo courtesy of <http://ndev.northriftsolutions.com>

2. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Maasai Community

Maasai People



Photo courtesy of <https://www.micato.com>

2. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Maasai Community

- Enjoy and learn about their colourful garments, jewellery, and spear-wielding habits, stories as well as their nomadic way of life
- Guests can participate in or watch traditional Maasai dances, songs, and ceremonies, which are integral to their cultural identity.
- Listen to Maasai elders as they narrate myths, legends, and oral histories.

Maasai Mara Game Reserve - Narok County's Crowning Jewel

- Visit the World –renowned Maasai Mara National Reserve- famous for hosting the big 5 mammals – Elephants, Leopards, Rhinos, lions and buffalo.
- The only wildlife reserve/national park with an indigenous black rhino population.
- Enjoy nature/bush walks, hot air ballooning and photographic tours.
- Don't miss the best safari experience 'the Great Annual Wildebeest Migration that starts in July and ends around October.

3. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Marsabit County

Gabbra and Rendille Communities in Marsabit County

- Engage with the Gabbra and Rendille people to learn about their camel herding practices and unique traditions
- Explore Marsabit National Park park, which offers a unique blend of desert and forest environments and is home to elephants, buffaloes, and various bird species.
- Don't miss to visit Lake Paradise, a Crater lake within Marsabit National Park, known for its scenic beauty and birdlife.

3. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Marsabit County

Enjoy scenic beauty and birdlife at Lake Paradise



Photo courtesy of <https://www.naturepl.com>

Aerial view of Lake Paradise in Marsabit National Park

4. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Garissa County

Visit Garissa and explore the Somali Cultural Experiences

- Learn about their traditional nomadic lifestyle, cuisine, and handicrafts.
- Experience boat rides and fishing activities along the Tana River
- Explore community-run conservancies that focus on wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism.

5. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Amboseli National Park - Salty Dust place in Kajiado County

- The park is also home to lions, leopards, cheetahs, gazelle, eland, impala, waterbucks and giraffe and over 600 species of birds.
- Enjoy spectacular views of Mt. Kilimanjaro - the highest free standing Mountain in the World.
- Enjoy Maasai culture as well during your stay.
- The best place in the world to get close to free-ranging wild elephants in large numbers, some of the largest tuskers in Africa.

6. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Tsavo National Park in Taita Taveta County famous for 'Man - Eaters of Tsavo'

- Explore the African wilderness in privacy/solitude at Tsavo and experience close encounters with a diverse range of animals (Leopards, Buffaloes, Lions, Rhinos, Hartebeest, Bush baby, Lesser Kudu, Masai Giraffe, Crocodiles and Hippos).
- Enjoy scenic landscapes - the Mudanda Rocks, Aruba Dam, Mzima Springs, Lugard Falls and the Yatta Plateau.
- A paradise for bird enthusiasts, with over 500 bird species making it great place for bird watching

7. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Samburu County

- Combine wildlife viewing with cultural visits to Samburu villages to understand their way of life.
- Enjoy memorable picnic at Mathews Range Forest by trekking through the forested mountains.
- Experience camel safaris led by Samburu guides, traversing the semi-arid landscapes.
- Do not forget to experience the cultures of the Samburu and Borana communities, including their traditional dances, attire, and herding practices.
- Enjoy unique and exciting annual Camel Derby in Maralal.

Samburu County - Camel Derby

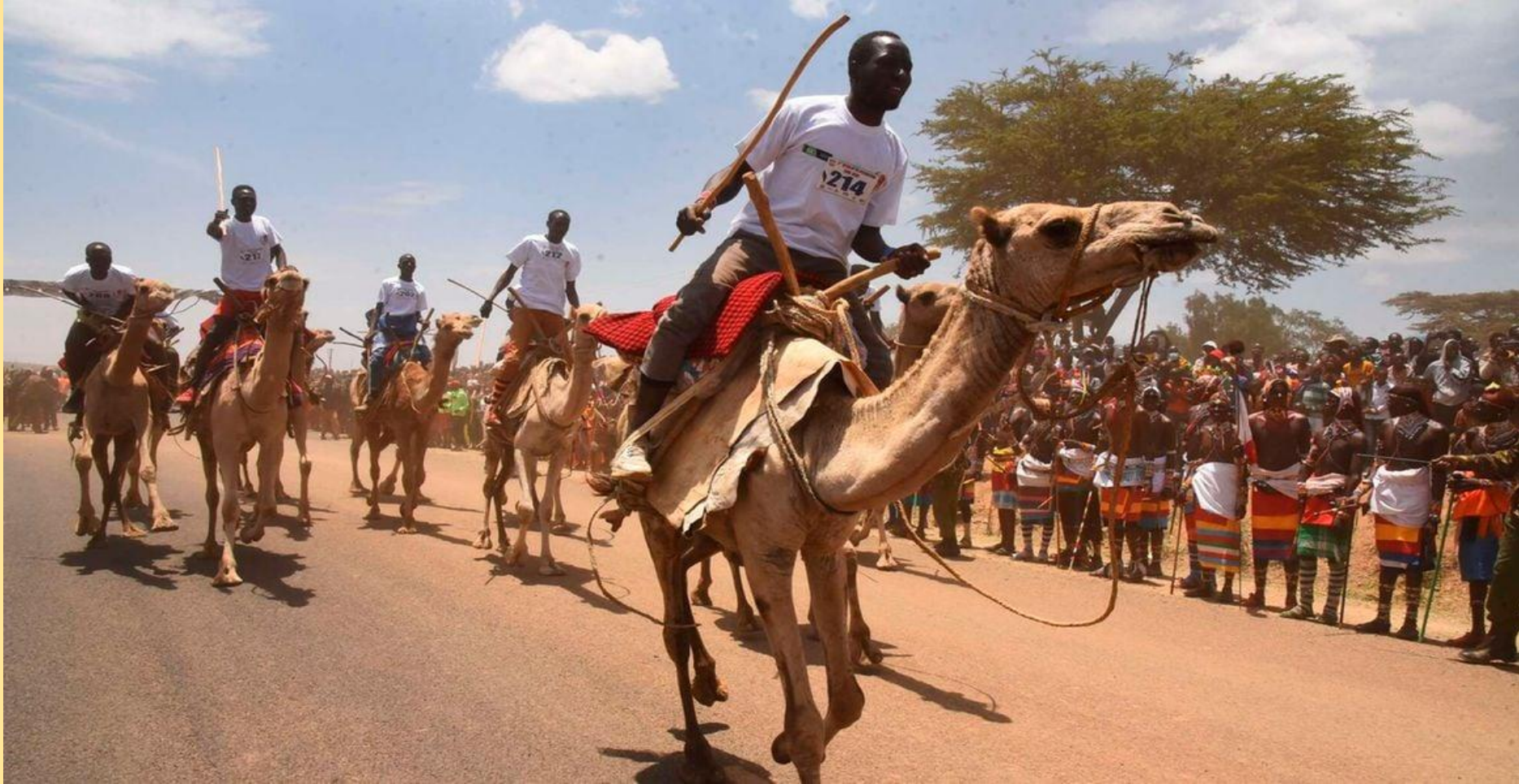


Photo courtesy of <https://www.kenyasafari.com>

8. Unbundling Pastoral Tourism package - Wajir County

- Enjoy memorable cultural tours as you interact with local Somali communities to understand their nomadic lifestyle and traditional practices.
- Explore the ancient town of Wajir Bor, known for its historical significance and cultural heritage.
- Experience desert landscapes and engage in camel riding and desert camping activities.
- Visit Lake Yahud in Wajir that leaves one speechless

Summary

The key activities across all the Pastoral Tourism circuits are:

- **Homestays** - Staying with local families to gain firsthand experience of their daily lives and routines.
- **Traditional Crafts** - Learning and participating in the creation of traditional crafts, such as beadwork, pottery, and weaving.
- **Rituals and Ceremonies** - Observing or participating in important cultural rituals and ceremonies, including coming-of-age ceremonies, weddings, and festivals.
- **Sustainable Practices** - Learning about traditional and modern sustainable practices in pastoralism, including water conservation, land management, and livestock rearing.

Contacts

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