

# GRVIL





# GRVL

The Great Rift Valley is a geographical and geological feature running north to south for around 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometres), from northern Syria to central Mozambique in East Africa. The Great Rift Valley Lodge and Golf Resort sits in the Valley, only 120 kilometres from Nairobi the capital city, an easy one and a half hour drive on tarmac road.

Built on the Eburru, a range that the Maasai call Ol Donyo Oporru, meaning mountain of smoke, overlooking Lake Naivasha famous for its birdlife, the lodge offers you a choice of accommodation ranging from private chalets and villas to rooms with stunning panoramas of the Great Rift Valley. Enjoy the many activities from horse riding to excursions to the hot water thermals where you can either enjoy a natural steam bath in the forest or boil an egg. Children can be deposited at the Adventurer's Club to learn about the geography of the volcanic valley and the wildlife found in it besides learning to be bush savvy.





## Eburu Range

The Maasai call it Ol Donyo Oporru, meaning the ‘mountain of smoke’. Eburru’s peak boasts a perfect panorama of the three Great Rift Valley lakes so famous for their flocks of pretty pink flamingoes – Lake Nakuru, Lake Elementeita and Lake Naivasha.

An active volcanic mountain rising 3,220 feet above the floor of the Great Rift Valley, it’s a fascinating massif decked in indigenous forest that’s home to rare species of wildlife like the critically endangered Eastern mountain bongo with ivory tipped horns (about 12 of the 100 in the wild are in the forest), the colobus monkeys, the elusive leopard, reptiles like von Hohnel’s chameleon and many species of forest birds. It’s a naturalist’s delight to explore the mountain forest.

Hot steam vents rise out of the mountain’s belly and in times past, the Maasai Moran’s (warriors) collected the rich ochre-colored mud to paint patterns on themselves. Today the local community harvests the steam with a maze of pipes that cool and condense into water. The summit has more than fifty craters with diameters ranging between 200 meters to 1.25 kilometers. On the forest edge, an active steam vent doubles up as a natural steam bath – perfect to relax after a hike in the forest.

Early stone-age tools found in Kariandusi Prehistoric Site made of the volcanic stone obsidian is believed to have come from Eburru. Bathed in warm sunshine and cool evenings, the first colonial settlers in the early 1900s started farming on the high slopes. Today you can explore the old settler’s homes and relics of old mills where cash crops like pyrethrum were dried by channeling the natural steam.





## Crescent Island

Not a true island but a peninsular that's the rim of an extinct volcano jutting out of the fresh water Lake Naivasha in the shadow of Mount Longonot in the Great Rift Valley, the island is a wildlife sanctuary that boasts resident herds of impala, giraffes, zebras, warthogs, Maasai giraffe, Grant gazelle, Thomson Gazelle, wildebeest, waterbuck, dikdik and more with a 360° view of the lake and the massifs of Eburru, Longonot, the Mau and the Aberdares. The name Naivasha derives from the local Maasai name Nai' posha meaning "rough water".

The 'island' which boasts a game park by the same name, is reached by boat and it's one of the few places to enjoy a walk while watching game. In the water, hippos snort and flamingos add a dash of brilliant pink when they are in residence. The lake is still home to huge numbers of pelicans, cormorants and the African fish-eagles with their haunting cry. Crescent Island is also home to history. In the 1940s, the four engined Flying-Boats landed on Lake Naivasha en route from England to South Africa and the foundations of the Terminal and Customs shed can be seen the Island.

The island park is not fenced and animals wander in and out – including the hippo, herds of buffalo and the hyena.

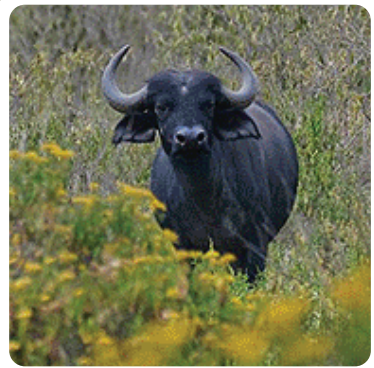


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## Crater Lake

A tiny lake measuring between 12 and 15 hectares, Crater Lake lies cradled in the belly of an 87-hectare crater near Lake Naivasha. It's thousands of years old – a result of the volcanic activity that formed the Great Rift Valley – an activity that began 30 million years ago. Flamingoes congregate in this highly alkaline 'soup' bowl to feed on the algae. It's a good place to see the beautiful colobus monkeys that relish the leaves of the indigenous trees and wildlife like gazelles and antelopes, baboons and buffaloes and more.

A hike around the rim of the crater gives an eagle's eye view of the lake in the crater and a walk around the lake is perfect to enjoy the outdoors. A sail in the lake is the most relaxing way for a 360 degree view of the crater and its denizens.





# Lake Nakuru National Park

Lake Nakuru is legendary for its pretty pink flamingoes which can number more than a million when the lake is thriving with the algae Spirulina. Rich in birdlife – especially the flamingo flocks that can color the lake crimson – it's one of the most visited places in the Great Rift Valley. Nakuru means “Dust or Dusty Place” in the Maasai language.

Lying in the national park, the lake is a Ramsar site meaning that it's a wetland of international importance, an Important Bird Area for its huge flocks of flamingos and of recent, designated as UNESCO's World Heritage Site under the Kenya Lake System in the Great Rift Valley, comprising of the three inter-linked lakes (Lake Bogoria, Lake Nakuru and Lake Elementaita) covering an area of 32,034 hectares.

Endowed with grass plains, bush and forest, home to Nakuru National Park is home to many a mammal. It's Kenya's first rhino sanctuary – visitors are almost assured of seeing the white rhino (brought in from South Africa in the mid-1990s) or the indigenous black rhino which is much rarer than the white. It's also home to the endangered Rothschild giraffe of which an estimated 650 survive today. On some occasions, one can see both the lion and leopard lounging around. The waterbuck of Lake Nakuru is an endemic species – the Defassa with a white rump unlike the white ring on common species.

The park has stunning view points that command aerial views of the lake - Lion hill, Baboon cliff, and Out of Africa. Three rivers flow into the lake - Makalia, Enderit and Njoro – creating a fresh water eco- system for the resident pods of hippos to wallow in during the day and wander out at night to graze all night long. Makalia Falls thunders down a cliff wall where baboon troops clamber in the evening to be safe from the prowling cats.





# Hells Gate National Park

Named for the intense geothermal activity within its boundaries, the Hell's Gate National Park is a remarkable quarter of the Great Rift Valley. Spectacular scenery including the towering cliffs, water-gouged gorges, stark rock towers, scrub clad volcanoes and belching plumes of geothermal steam make it one of the most atmospheric Parks in Africa. Attractions are: Spectacular scenery including the towering cliffs, water-gouged gorges, stark rock towers, scrub clad volcanoes and belching plumes of geothermal steam make it one of the most atmospheric Parks in Africa, Wildlife viewing, Raptor nesting in cliffs, Hot springs, The Olkaria Geothermal Station, The Mervyn Carnelley Raptor Hide, Tourist circuits, nature trails and a Health spa.





# Soysambu Conservancy

Soysambu is a Wildlife conservancy located on Lake Elementaita World Heritage Site in Kenya's Great Rift Valley. Soysambu is 48,000 acres situated in Kenya's central rift valley approximately 130kms northwest of Nairobi and approximately 25 kms southeast of Nakuru, bordered by Lake Nakuru National Park on the west, volcanoes Ol Doinyo Eburru to the south and Menengai to the north. Large predators are returning to Kenya's Soysambu Conservancy after historical displacement by livestock ranching. This is thanks to the growing zebra and buffalo populations found in Soysambu, allowing it to act as a critical dispersal area for lions from neighboring Nakuru National Park. Thriving populations of impala, Thompson's and Grant's gazelle, reedbuck, steenbok, and klipspringer form the key prey base for the burgeoning leopard population. Predominantly surrounded by Soysambu, Lake Elementaita is the last breeding site for great white pelicans in Kenya, one of only four such sites in East Africa. It also hosts, at various times, 28 percent of the world's flamingo population.

