



Experience Our Celestial Safari

In Samburu, where ancient landscapes stretch toward infinite skies, something extraordinary happens when the sun sets. Here, beneath one of the world's clearest dark-sky sanctuaries, heaven and earth converge in a dance of starlight that has guided the Samburu people for countless generations.

In this special bonus newsletter, we invite you to discover why Samburu has become a sanctuary for astronomers, astrophotographers, and dreamers alike. Whether you're joining renowned astrophotographer Rositsa Dimitrova for our exclusive January 2026 workshop, embarking on a year-round celestial safari, or simply learning what makes these skies so exceptional, prepare to experience the cosmos as never before—from elevated star beds beneath canopies of galaxies that have guided the Samburu people for countless generations.

Prepare to be guided not just across Kenya's most pristine wilderness, but upward—into skies so clear they reveal the universe as it was meant to be seen.

Why Samburu Is A Sky Like No Other



What transforms Samburu into a celestial sanctuary isn't just its remote location—it's the convergence of rare astronomical conditions found nowhere else in Kenya. These landscapes rank among the darkest on Earth, with Bortle 1 skies that reveal the Milky Way in breathtaking clarity. Here, minimal light pollution means you'll witness celestial events exactly as our ancestors did, with thousands of stars visible to the naked eye.

Kenya's equatorial position offers visibility of constellations from both northern and southern hemispheres in a single night sky. From the elevated star bed, you're surrounded by nothing but silence and sky. By day, Mt. Ololokwe's dramatic silhouette dominates the horizon. By night, it frames compositions that astrophotographers dream about.

What moves us most, though, are the stories. Our Samburu guides share ancestral interpretations of these same stars—cosmic wisdom passed down through generations, connecting celestial patterns to the rhythms of life below.

"Where science and soul converge beneath infinite skies."

The Astrophotography Workshop with Rositsa Dimitrova

From January 17th to 21st 2026, we're hosting a five-day Astrophotography Workshop led by renowned astrophotographer **Rositsa Dimitrova** beneath Samburu's extraordinary night skies. The workshop welcomes a maximum of eight participants—a deliberate choice that ensures the personalised guidance this transformative experience deserves. Here, technical mastery meets the profound darkness of one of Africa's most pristine celestial viewing locations.

Rositsa's teaching philosophy blends precision with emotional storytelling. You'll journey from smartphone captures to professional DSLR techniques, mastering everything from Milky Way compositions to star trail artistry. Days bring dramatic landscape photography alongside encounters with Samburu's rare northern species—Besia Oryx, reticulated giraffes, Grevy's zebras roaming beneath wide-open skies.

As darkness falls, guided sessions unfold on our star beds. You'll refine long exposures, foreground integration, and Adobe Photoshop workflows whilst our Samburu guides share ancient cosmic wisdom that adds profound depth to every frame you create. With just eight spaces, each moment promises the individual attention that transforms enthusiasts into artists.

This workshop calls to photographers ready to push creative boundaries where Earth meets infinity.



[Book The Astrophotography Workshop →](#)

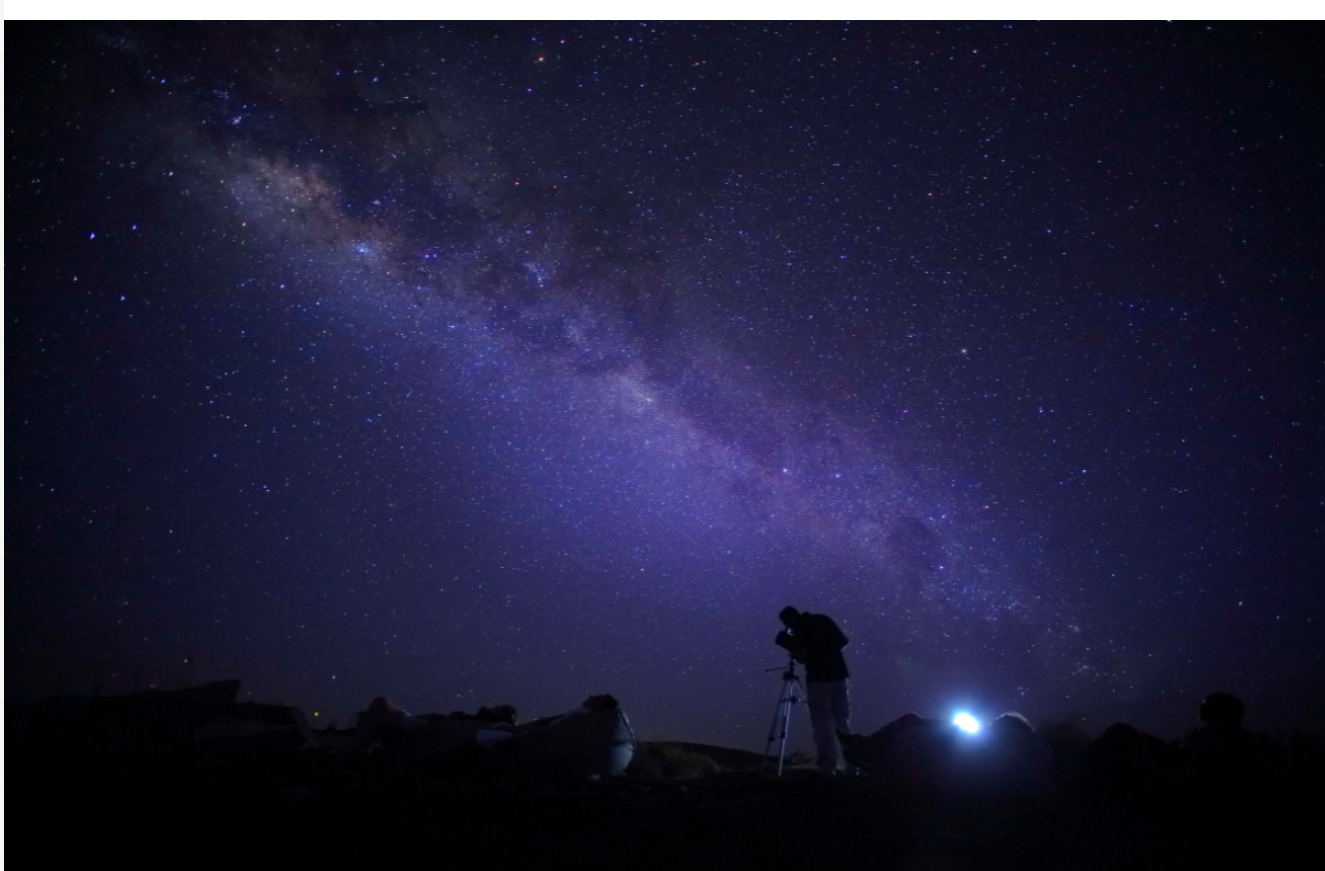
"This workshop calls to passionate photographers ready to push their boundaries, travelers who see art in adventure, and anyone who believes that the best images capture not just what we see, but how it makes us feel."

The Celestial Safari

For those who seek the universe on their own timeline, our year-round Celestial Safari weaves together the best of Samburu's wilderness with dedicated stargazing experiences. This five-day journey balances daytime wildlife encounters—tracking elephants, big cats, and the Samburu Special Five—with evenings designed entirely around the cosmos above.

Your nights begin on elevated star beds where the only ceiling is infinity itself. Local Samburu guides, whose families have navigated by these stars for generations, lead you through constellations whilst sharing stories that connect celestial patterns to earth-bound wisdom. From sunrise game drives across dramatic plains to cultural encounters in Samburu communities, every daylight experience builds toward those transformative hours when darkness reveals the universe in full glory.

This is safari reimaged—where the adventure continues long after sunset, and where looking up becomes just as rewarding as scanning the horizon.



[Book The Celestial Safari →](#)

"This safari is perfect for couples seeking romance beneath African stars, families wanting to share wonder together, and anyone who believes that true adventure means experiencing both the earth beneath your feet and the heavens stretching endlessly above."

Capture the Cosmos, Share The Wonder



Celestial Safari isn't just about witnessing Samburu's extraordinary night skies—it's about taking that wonder home with you. Submit your most breathtaking celestial photograph to the A Million Stars Over Samburu Astrophotography Competition for a chance to win a safari worth \$6,000 at any of our camps or lodges.

Whether you've already experienced Samburu's dark skies or you're inspired by what's possible under some of Earth's clearest celestial canopies, this competition celebrates the intersection of technical artistry and the profound connection between land, sky, and the communities who've navigated by these stars for generations.

[View Competition Details →](#)

Guest Reflections



The night sky was so clear, we saw so many constellations and even two shooting stars! The camp manager, Benson, gave us a very informative session about the stars and constellations which we really enjoyed. Our tent had a beautiful view of Mt. Ololokwe. Basecamp Samburu was exceptional—this may have been the best place we have ever stayed in.

Maddy

★★★★★

Basecamp Samburu



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Deep in Kenya's Maasai Mara, a remarkable conservation story has been unfolding, one written in dust and rain, trust and determination.

We're excited to share that story with you through the newly launched coffee table book, ***Naboisho: Coming Together for Wildlife***.

In this newsletter, we'll take you behind the pages to discover the inspiration that sparked this beautiful publication, meet the authors who brought the narrative to life, and explore the powerful lessons about community-led conservation that emerged from Naboisho Conservancy's journey.

You'll also learn about the recognition this pioneering conservancy has earned, and most importantly, how you can secure your own copy of this remarkable book that captures what's possible when communities, wildlife, and conservation partners unite.

Inspiration Behind The Book



The Maasai Mara Reserve may be one of Africa's most celebrated wildernesses, yet just beyond its borders, something quietly revolutionary has taken root - a model for coexistence called the Naboisho Conservancy.

'Naboisho' means **coming together** in Maa, and that's exactly what happened here. Faced with land fragmentation, cultural erosion, and a changing climate, a community united to chart a new way forward.

The **Mara Naboisho Conservancy**, a community-based wildlife haven, was born in 2010 from a shared vision between Maasai landowners, conservationists, and tourism partners to safeguard both wildlife and a centuries-old pastoral way of life. Through the establishment of this community-owned conservancy, Saruni Basecamp offered the Maasai a sustainable alternative to selling their land to outsiders; protecting vital wildlife corridors while empowering the very people who have long been custodians of this land.

[The Naboisho Story →](#)

"Naboisho isn't just a place on the map — it's a living example of what happens when people choose to protect, rather than divide."

Meet The Authors



Co-authored by Prof. Hitesh Mehta, Peter Martell, and Svein Wilhelmsen, **Naboisho: Coming Together for Wildlife** tells the story of how collaboration transformed a fragile landscape into one of the world's leading examples of community-based conservation.

Prof. Hitesh Mehta, one of National Geographic's "Five Sustainable Tourism Pioneers," has spent over four decades studying the Greater Mara. As Naboisho's landscape architect, he helped design a plan where wildlife and people thrive side by side.

Peter Martell, an acclaimed international journalist and author, brings his storyteller's lens to the narrative — weaving humanity, struggle, and triumph into every line.

Svein Wilhelmsen, founder of Saruni Basecamp, has spent more than twenty-seven years walking alongside the Maasai community. As a co-founder of the **Naboisho Conservancy**, he remains guided by one belief: that tourism, when done right, can restore both land and livelihood.

A Map of Naboisho Conservancy



[Explore Naboisho Conservancy →](#)

Lessons From The Land



In Naboisho, the path to harmony was not hurried, it was walked together, step by step. Here a few lessons we gathered along the way:

"Good things unfold slowly."

Before the first agreement was signed between the Maasai families, tourism partners, and conservationists, two years were spent in open dialogue. Trust takes time — and that patience built everything that followed.

"Unity creates possibility."

Hundreds of local Maasai, each with unique dreams and traditions, found common purpose. When voices align, transformation follows.

"Community wisdom is irreplaceable."

No expert could have built Naboisho alone. True sustainability begins when those who know the land best lead the way.

A Model Worth Emulating

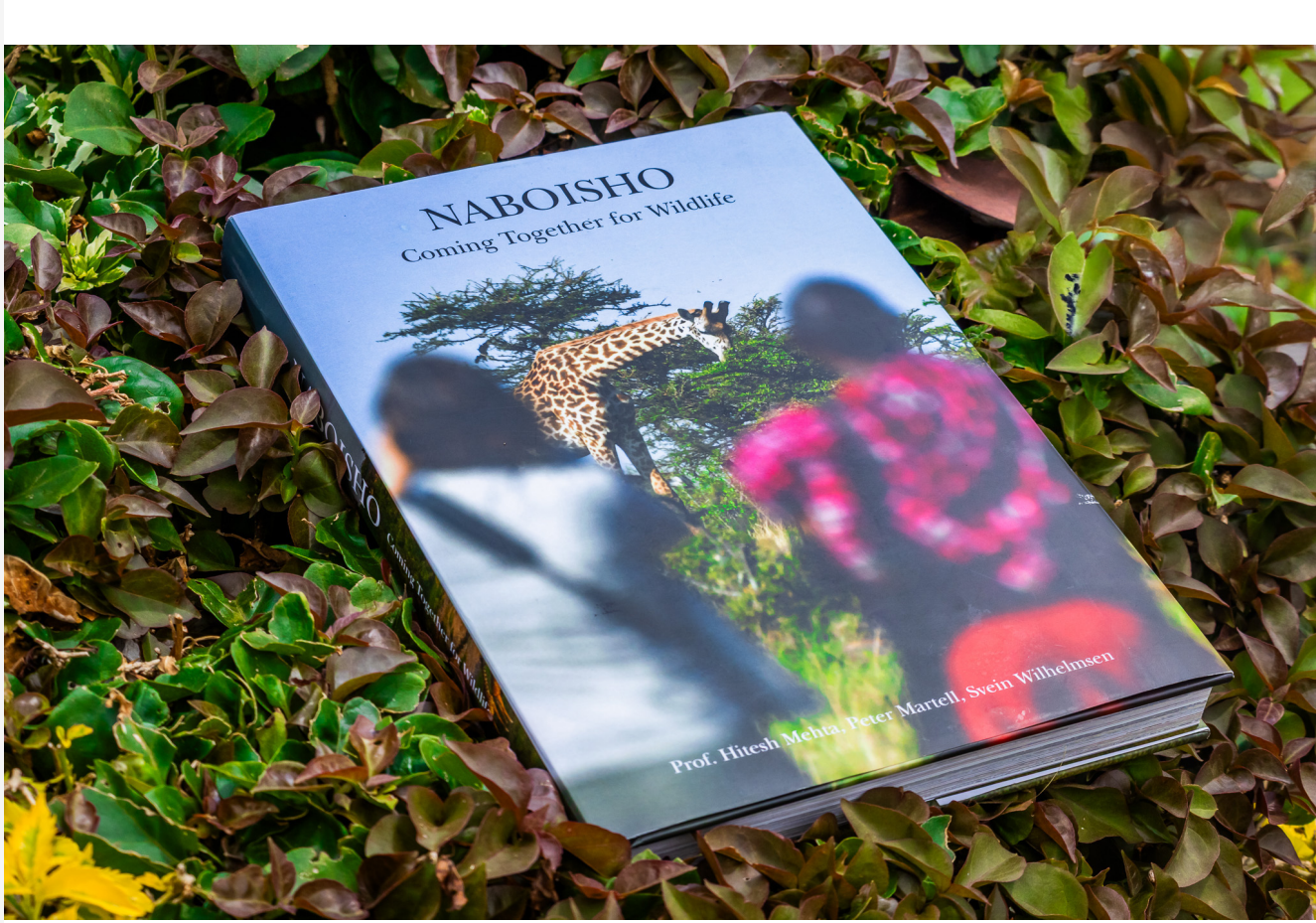
When a community chooses to protect rather than divide, the world takes notice.

Naboisho Conservancy has earned global recognition as a model for what conservation can be when communities lead the way:

- **2019: Global Human Settlements Award**
- **2016: African Responsible Tourism Awards**
- **2016: Top 100 Global Sustainable Tourism Destinations**
- **2014: Eco Warrior Award**

The accolades remind us that the world is watching and learning from what's possible here.

More Than A Book



This isn't just a coffee-table keepsake. It's a manifesto for what responsible tourism can be.

Naboisho: Coming Together for Wildlife book is for anyone who believes in doing good while doing well. For travellers seeking meaning, for conservationists searching for proof that collaboration works, and for communities everywhere asking how to protect what they love.

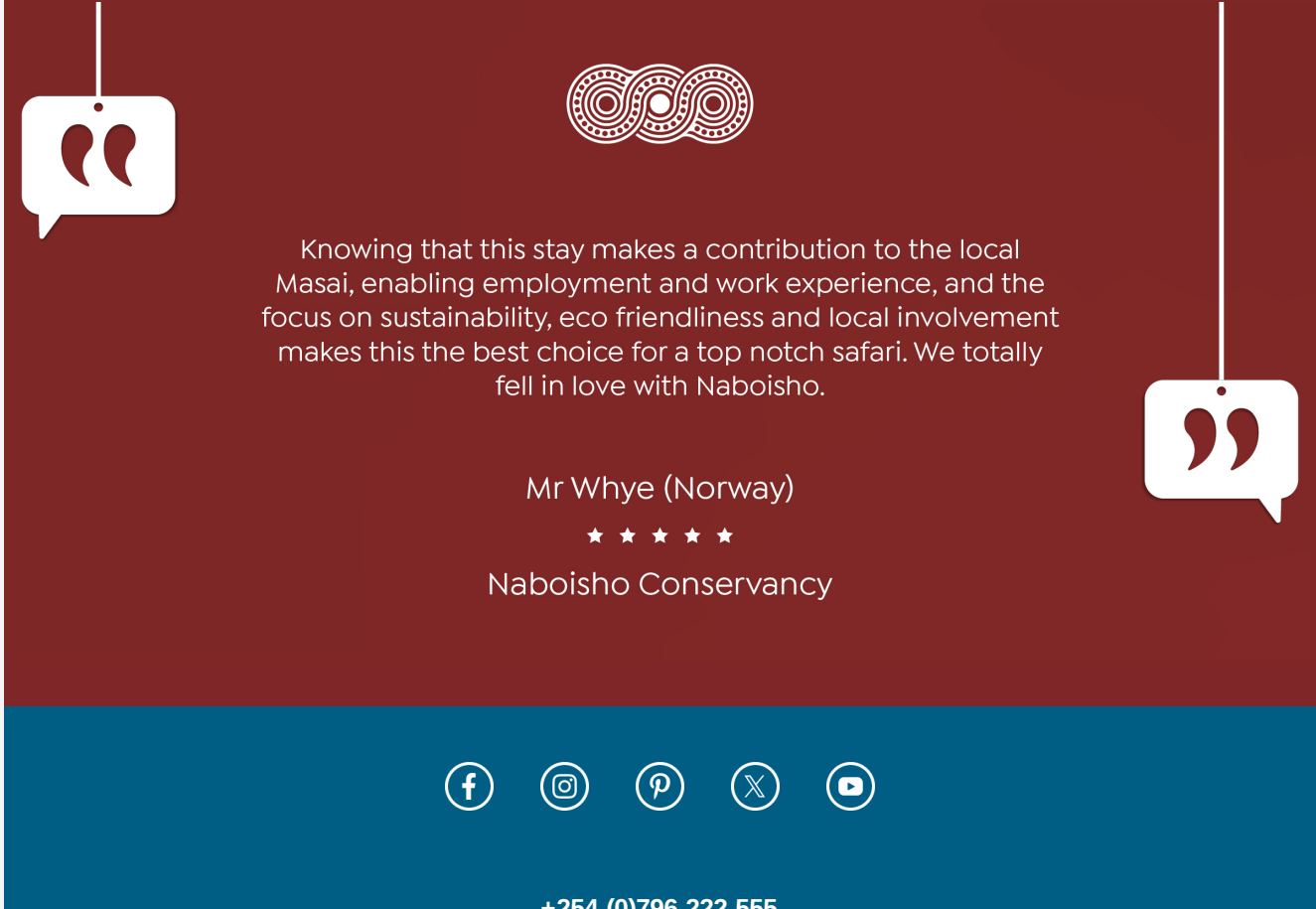
Every copy extends the conversation we've been having around our campfires for years. It asks a simple, profound question: *What does "coming together" look like in your world?*

As you turn its pages, you'll find not only a story, but an invitation to see conservation not as a distant cause, but as something deeply human. Because here in the Mara, we've learned one enduring truth: when we come together, life returns.

Hold a piece of the Mara's story in your hands and be part of what happens next. A thoughtful gift for the holiday season, with 100% of the proceeds being ploughed back into conserving the Maasai Mara.

[Grab A Copy →](#)

Guest Reflections



Mr Whye (Norway)

★★★★★

Naboisho Conservancy



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