

# a destination with a difference



## Highlights of the next issue

- Progress on Ashnil Mara Camp
- Commissioning of the watering hole at Aruba Dam
- Readers comments

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Dear Reader,

Ten years ago, the dream to provide quality accommodation deep in the conservation areas that meets international standards and caters for all class of travelers was as distant as the sky. With a determination and foresight, the dream was modeled and shaped into reality.

To match the demand for increased bed capacity in the tourism industry, Ashnil Hotels have timely established accommodation that combines class, comfort, quality and uniqueness in the afore mentioned areas. Ashnil Hotels came into existence through research pieced together combined with great architectural designing and planning.

Our first property, Ashnil Aruba Lodge located in Tsavo East National Park, was opened in April 2008. Barely a year later, our desire to grow and develop to meet the growing demand for accommodation brought us to Buffalo Springs where we opened our second property, Ashnil Samburu Camp in November 2008. we are currently constructing the Ashnil Mara Camp in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve which is expected to be fully operational by January 2010.

After one year of operations in Kenya, Ashnil Hotels wish to thank all players in the tourism industry for their continued support and good business relations.

This newsletter comes in handy to provide information relevant to a traveler and booking agent whose intention is to embrace quality and class of a service unsurpassed.

Yours Sincerely,

Rajan Bhandari,  
Managing Director, Ashnil Hotels Limited.



Gift Shop at Aruba Lodge

*We have the eye for every detail where we ensure that our guests get warm hospitality and enjoy a relaxed atmosphere away from the huddles and baffles of the day.*



Architectural impression of the actual camp on completion

## Ashnil Aruba Lodge

Ashnil Aruba Lodge, located deep in the wilderness in the heart of Tsavo East National Park, has 40 rooms resting along the Voi River overlooking Aruba Dam. The Dam is a popular congregating point for wildlife. Forty minutes away from the Lodge is the Galana River with its mighty Lugard Falls, named after Britain's first proconsul in East Africa, Captain, and later Lord, Lugard. Mighty when in spate, the

falls cascade through a narrow rock neck, a true destination with a difference.



## Ashnil Samburu Camp

Ashnil Samburu Camp, with its simplistic elegance of the 24 spacious tents located in the Buffalo Springs Game Reserve provides an oasis of comfort which rejuvenates the spirits. With a sitting capacity of 100 guests, the lodge has the most modern kitchen facility and well

trained personnel in international, oriental and taste of African cuisine. Our resident naturalists will It is simply the place to relax and enjoy the breath taking scenery of 'the life line of Northern Kenya' Ewaso Nyiro River, another destination with a difference!



## Ashnil Mara Camp

Coming soon is Ashnil Mara Camp, comprising 30 luxury tents, located within the 'triangle' in the Maasai Mara National Reserve close to the Mara River famous for the wildebeest migration. The Mara, more often than not has been described as Kenya's finest wildlife reserve due to the

abundant wildlife and the gentle rolling grasslands that ensure the animals are never out of sight. Everything about it is outstanding. After 4 - 5 hours drive from Nairobi, this is the perfect place to make a stop-over for a night or two. There are scheduled

flights from Nairobi (45 min) and Mombasa (2 1/2 hours). Its doors will open to the first group of guests starting January 2010. We will keep you updated concerning its progress in our next newsletter.

## Page 3 Conservation efforts

Ashnil Hotels is geared towards the collective responsibility of implementing environmentally sustainable practices through water conservation, waste and energy management. We are also taking care of the well-being of the communities living adjacent to the conservation area. It is our aim to attain sustainable growth through corporate social responsibility. These improvements to the local

community will take the forms of employment, health, education and provision of water through digging of boreholes. On celebrating our first anniversary in Ashnil Aruba Lodge, we embarked on a tree planting exercise which involved every guest who spent a night in the month of April to plant a tree. This event saw the planting of 1000 seedlings. In November 2009, we shall be conducting an-

other tree planting exercise in Samburu to commemorate one year since we started operations in Northern Kenya. The afforestation programme is an initiative of the unit's environment committees comprising members of staff. It is geared towards replacing any form of vegetation of indigenous nature that may have been destroyed at the beginning of the construction process.

## Safari Activities

There are a variety of safari activities which offer exciting add-ons to ones stay. They vary depending on the clientele needs and include guided nature walks, evening entertainment, sundowner and game drives. We also specialize in organizing an exchange of vows in the theatre of wildlife escorted

by the Maasai or Samburu traditional dancers, bush dinners, bush breakfast and picnic lunches. The prime location of our properties in the conservation areas provides an ideal start of game viewing right from the balcony of your room. A drive east, west, south or north of the lodges will give you an

equal opportunity to see and appreciate nature and how resourceful it can be when conserved.

While most guests will look for the big five as a priority, we look at nature in its entirety and appreciate even the smallest of the creatures available in the conservation areas.

## Attractions

The conservation accommodating Ashnil Hotels are rich in bio-diversity and offer our guests an interrupted opportunity to view the various flora and fauna alongside the diverse culture of the people. Our resident naturalists in every lodge are well conversant with their respective conservation areas and will take you through a guided running commentary tour. This provides an

enchanting experience leaving the traveler with vivid memories and an urge to visit the lodges again in future. Main attractions in Tsavo East will include visits to places like Lugard Falls, Aruba Dam, Mudanda Rock, Kanderi marshy circuit and the mighty Yatta plateau stretching 300 kms and 30 metres high. In Buffalo Springs, you are spoilt for choice as you have an opportunity to

traverse the three conservation areas of Shaba, Samburu and Buffalo Springs. The Ewaso Nyiro River caps it all up, besides the Gerenuk (*litocranius walleri*), Grevy Zebra (*Equus Grevi*) and Somali Ostrich (*Struthio Camelus Somalia*). The Ololokwe mountains sets the altitude higher in an otherwise low level, hot terrain.

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Tree planting exercise at Aruba Lodge.

*"Plans to protect air, water, wilderness and wildlife are infact plans to protect man."  
Unknown author.*



4 x 4 wheel drive vehicle for game drives

## Page 4 **Wildlife and Scenery**

### **Ashnil Aruba Lodge - Tsavo East**

- Large herds of elephants and other wildlife
- Home to the popular legend of Tsavo lions known as the “man-eaters of Tsavo”
- Lugards falls on the Galana River – visitors can walk to the river to view the rapids
- Mudanda rock
- Aruba dam – was built in 1952 across the Voi River.
- Tsavo/Athi rivers confluence to form the Galana River
- Voi town and traditional market, Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Voi Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery from 1914/16
- Bura Mission (first inland Christian Mission set up in 1892)
- Taita Hills (often referred to as the Switzerland of Kenya)
- Sagalla Hills
- Mzima Springs (in Tsavo West National Park)
- Tsavo River Railway Station (Scene of the Man-eaters of Tsavo)

### **Ashnil Samburu Camp—Buffalo Springs National Reserve**

- Home to the big five and other wildlife
- Prolific bird life – about 400 species of indigenous and migratory birds
- Variety of reptiles and aquatic species in the Ewaso Nyiro River
- Rich Cultural and community attractions
- Ancient lava-terrace that forms the Champagne Ride in the south east
- The buffalo springs
- The vegetation consisting of doum palm, acacia riverine forest, scrubs and grasslands
- Topographic feature:
  - ◆ Lake Lokipi hot spring – the breeding site of flamingos
  - ◆ Lake Turkana (known as the Jade Sea)
  - ◆ Large indigenous forest is located here
  - ◆ The amazing escarpments – Ololokwe Mountains, Ndoto, Nyiro (Mathew ranges)
  - ◆ Ewaso Nyiro river meanders through the rugged landscape
  - ◆ The Rift Valley



Sundowner at Ashnil Aruba, a bottle of wine gives the day a beautiful ending

*Come and enjoy with us a journey to these peaceful havens.*



Elephant Champagne

## Page 5 Facilities at Ashnil Hotels

### Accommodation at Aruba Lodge

There are a total number of 40 deluxe en-suite rooms with 8 having interconnecting rooms. 4 triple rooms with one interconnecting room and 2 rooms suited for the disables persons.

### Accommodation at Ashnil Samburu Camp

There are a total number of 24 deluxe en-suite tents, 12 with King or Queen sized beds, 9 with twin beds and 3 with triple beds. Each of the exclusive comfortable deluxe tents gives perfect view of the Ewaso Nyiro River, surrounding beautiful landscape and all lives this brown river supports. Every spacious tent consists of a dressing area, sitting area, luggage rack and en-suite facilities to provide a memorable stay close to nature.

### Restaurants

The open sitting restaurants located in the main building, can sit a maximum of 100 guests. The buffet platforms, hot and cold, sit in the middle of the restaurant for easy access by all.

**Meal plans:** Full board accommodation basis. Buffet setting is the preferred serving style but request

out of the normal buffet served can be arranged for an a la' carte menu to suit your needs at an extra fee.

**Menus:** There is a variety of menus to choose from mainly oriental, international cuisine and a taste of African traditional dishes.

There are other available options in place that can be arranged on request like bubbly bush breakfast and picnic lunch boxes.

### Lounge bars

The lounges in all the units are located in the main building sector away from the main dining area. The décor has an African touch that makes it a wonderful place to pass time and relax. There is a variety of drinks served and these will include liqueur, soft drinks, cocktails, wines, and spirits, local and international beers. The sitting capacity is approximately 150 guests.

### Conferencing

Ashnil hotels has identified the need to address the upcoming MICE market and this has led to the establishment of a complete fully furnished conference facility that can hold a up to a maximum of 45 guests seated theatre style in all the three units.

### Souvenir shop

The souvenir shops stock curios, African clothing, jewellery and accessories as well as other basic items like toiletries etc. It is open from 6.00 am – 10.00 pm with permissible lunch break.

### Swimming pools

After a grueling game drive you can take a dip in our swimming pool or simply relax by the pool which overlooks the game park/reserve. This is the perfect place to relax and laze around in the calm afternoons.

### Business services

E-mails, internet browsing and general secretarial services are available at the reception.

### Clinics/Dispensaries

We have fully equipped clinics in both units that caters for staff and guests whenever emergencies arise. The nurse will provide assistance at a nominal fee and or make referral to a larger well equipped hospital if need be.

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View from the tent in camp

*Guest comment:  
We had a wonderful stay!  
The accommodation was comfortable, food was good and the staff were very friendly and helpful.  
'Helen Posner-Denver'*



## Great News For Repeat Guests



We have great news for all our repeat guests; we are introducing a loyalty scheme where guests will get a discount on their third repeat visit per year. We are also in the process of introducing a privilege card where after every visit in any of the units in Ashnil Hotels, the card is credited with points redeemable at predetermined times in the course of the year.

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