

## Extraordinary Safari Lodges With Unique Art Experiences

Kenya's Laikipia Plateau is home to some of the most extraordinary safari accommodations in the country—not to mention spectacular wildlife

EXCERPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY STEFANIE WALDEK

I awake to lions roaring in the predawn hours, and it sounds like they're just outside the door of my thatched-roof villa. The sounds might be deceiving, I try to reason, as my heart pounds—a lion's roar can be heard up to five miles away. Yet when the sun finally rises, I hop into a Land Cruiser to survey the surroundings and there they are, two male lions who likely battled a foe overnight. It's a common enough scene on safari, but Segera is not a common safari destination.

Upon returning to my villa, I pass through an old stable, but instead of horses, each of the stalls holds an installation of

contemporary art by some of Africa's foremost contemporary talents. In one, there's a watercolor by South African painter Marlene Dumas; in another, photographs by Zimbabwean multimedia artist Kudzanai Chiurai. Such are the surprises in Laikipia—a plateau in Kenya, some 150 miles north of Nairobi, that's not just a top safari destination, but also might be the most underrated art and design destination in Africa.

**Segera is actually the final stop on my adventure through Laikipia, organized by luxury outfitter Micato Safaris. Though the company works across the African continent—and even hosts wildlife tours in India—its founders, Felix and Jane Pinto, are third-generation Kenyans, so it comes as little surprise that they know the best spots to take guests beyond the Maasai Mara.**



Laikipia safari resort Segera also offers an extensive array of African art.  
PHOTO: DAVID CROOKES