Thank you for your interest in joining our Nairobi Nursery's public visiting hour. During this special experience, we invite the public to join our midday mud bath and milk feed, where you will learn about our conservation work and meet the young orphaned elephants in our care. We would be delighted to facilitate your visit.

The public visit takes place every day, except the 25th December, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Please note that entry is strictly by advance booking only. Guest numbers are limited to ensure an enjoyable experience for all.

Prior to requesting a booking, please review our booking and visiting protocols:

**PRE-BOOKING REQUIREMENTS**

- Access to the Nursery is by advance booking only.
- Bookings for up to six persons can be made online. For larger groups, please contact our Kenya office.
- We encourage guests to reserve their slots early, as we have limited daily capacity. Bookings may be made up to three months in advance of a proposed visit.
- It is not possible to make same-day bookings and we ask that you please do not come to the Nursery unless you have a confirmed booking.
- If you are no longer able to make your booked visit, please let us know as soon as possible, so as to give someone else the opportunity to visit that day.

**ENTRY FEES**

- Your visit to the Nursery directly supports elephant conservation. Currently, the minimum donation for entry is Ksh 1,500 / US$15 per person 12 years and above, and Ksh 500 / US$5 for those under 12 years of age.
- Beginning 01 June 2023, the minimum donation for adult entry will be Ksh 2,000 / US$20. This is necessary to help us meet the increased costs of the Orphans’ Project and our field conservation work.
- This donation is not pre-paid, but collected upon entry, in cash (Kenya shillings or US dollars) or via Mpesa.

**VISIT TIMING**

- The visiting hour takes place from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.
- To ensure minimum delays, we encourage guests to arrive at 10:30 a.m. on their booked date.

**ON-SITE PROTOCOLS**

- Smoking and vaping is prohibited at the Nursery.
- We ask visitors to set their phone to silent, and not to make or receive calls at the mud bath area.

**RESPECTING THE ORPHANS**

- Every orphan in our care will ultimately be reintegrated back into the wild. For this reason, we carefully limit their exposure to humans. Only Keepers are allowed to feed and directly interact with our Nursery herd. However, some of the more mischievous elephants may choose to extend a trunk in greeting or bump along the visitor cordon.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens during the Nairobi Nursery’s public visit?
The public visit is timed around our Nursery herd’s midday milk feed and mud bath. From a variety of viewing areas, you will see the orphaned elephants run out of the forest in groups for their much-loved bottles of specialist milk formula. Afterwards, all the orphans gather for playtime. Some wallow in the mud, while others challenge their friends to a wrestling match or indulge in a dust bath. Each day is unique among our Nursery herd.

One of our senior Keepers leads the public visit, introducing you to each orphan, sharing a bit about their stories and personalities, and teaching you about our wider conservation work across Kenya. We always set aside time for questions at the end.

Will I see my adopted orphan?
During your visit, you will see the orphaned elephants who are currently in our care at the Nairobi Nursery and attending the midday mud bath. On our website, we state the location where each orphan currently resides. You can find an up-to-date list of our Nursery herd on this page.

It is not possible to visit Maxwell the rhino, as he is blind and prefers a very quiet life.

Can I adopt an orphan in-person on the day of my visit?
Yes! Adoptions directly support our Orphans’ Project, funding the specialist care needed to successfully raise orphaned elephants and other creatures. You are most welcome to adopt in-person at the end of your visit, for a minimum contribution of US$50 per year.

As a memento of your in-person adoption, you will receive a special adoption packet that is exclusive to the public visit. This includes an adoption certificate, an elephant watercolour print, a printed book copy of our latest annual newsletter, and a profile of your chosen orphan.

Is there a gift shop at the Nairobi Nursery?
After the mud bath, we offer for sale a small selection of souvenirs and gifts made by Kenyan artisans.

What should I bring with me to the visit?
Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the outdoor setting. It can be hot and sunny at the mud bath, so we strongly advise guests to wear sunscreen and a hat. During the rainy season (April through May, and November), it can be muddy, so bear that in mind when visiting.

We do not offer refreshments on-site. Bring plenty of water for yourself, but leave other drinks and snacks at home.

Is Wi-Fi available at the Nursery?
There is no public Wi-Fi available at the Nairobi Nursery.

How can I continue to support and stay involved with Sheldrick Wildlife Trust?
As a non-profit, our conservation projects are entirely funded by donations. Every contribution makes an enormous difference. We can facilitate donations through our US 501(c)(3), UK charity, and on-site at our Kenya charity.

If you are in a position to give, adopting an orphan in our care is an engaging and deeply impactful way to support our work. You will receive monthly updates on your adopted orphan and our wider orphan herd throughout the year, along with exclusive access to the latest Keepers’ Diaries and other special content.

For your daily dose of Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, follow us on social media, @sheldricktrust! We are on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and TikTok. You can also stay in the loop through our newsletter offerings.

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