KENYA

Kenya is Africa's prime gameviewing destination with dramatic landscapes, magnificent game parks and abundant wildlife. Mt Kenya, Mt Kilimanjaro and the steep escarpments of the Rift Valley provide stunning scenery, whilst the open grasslands support the greatest variety of grazing animals in the world. The country is also home to colourful tribes such as the Masai and Samburu.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Masai Mara
Best known as a staging ground for the annual wildebeest migration, the Masai Mara offers fabulous gameviewing all year round.

Samburu Game Reserve
The photogenic Samburu is home to unique dry-adapted species and is a favourite of many visitors to Kenya.

Lewa & Laikipia Conservancies
These two exceptionally well-run sanctuaries boast some of Africa's healthiest big game populations including black and white rhino.

Rift Valley Lakes – Nakuru, Naivasha and Elmenteita
Flamingoes might be the best-known residents of this region, attracted to algae in the soda lakes, but there is also impressive scenery and wildlife.

Amboseli, Chyulu Hills and Tsavo
Private concessions adjoining the parks of Kenya’s southwest provide an authentic safari experience far from busy tourist trails.

GAMEVIEWING

Excellent gameviewing year round. Jul-Sep is extremely popular as the wildebeest migration is in the Masai Mara. Although traditionally the “low” (short-rains) season, November in the Mara offers sensational gameviewing at substantially reduced rates.

CLIMATE

Kenya has 3 distinct seasons - cool and dry from Jun-Aug (23°-25°C), hot and dry from Dec - Mar (30°-40°C), and warm and wet from Mar- May and Nov - Dec (28°-35°C).

Amazing Masai Mara

“Samburu was full of adventure, the peace and quiet of Mt Kenya, the beauty of Lake Nakuru, and the Masai Mara - everywhere you looked there was an animal. It was the ultimate safari.”

Kimberly and Warren McReynolds

© Governors Camp
HIGHLIGHTS OF KENYA
7 days/6 nights
From $3887 per person twin share*
By road daily ex Nairobi

PRIVATE DEPARTURES
Price per person from:
Silver $3038
Gold $3477

Optional extra nights in the Mara:
Silver $446
Gold $486

SHARED DEPARTURES
Guaranteed shared departures with min 3 max 6.
Price per person from:
Silver $2755
Gold $3195

*Based on two people sharing on a private departure. Singles on request.

Optional surcharge to fly Masai Mara to Nairobi with a transfer to your Nairobi city hotel from $485 per person.

SILVER: Samburu Shaba, Mountain Lodge, Sarova Lion Hill Lodge, Sarova Mara Tented Camp or similar

GOLD: Elephant Bedroom Camp, Mountain Lodge, Mbweha Camp, Tipilikwani Tented Camp or similar.

INCLUSIONS
Transportation by 4WD Safari Land Cruiser, guaranteed window seat, activities, full board accommodation on safari, private guide for each group, Dimitri vehicle in camp.

T his classic itinerary visits Kenya’s highlights: the beautiful semi-arid wilderness of Samburu National Reserve with its unique dry-country species; the forests around Mt Kenya; Lake Nakuru with its millions of flamingos, pelicans and other wildlife; the grasslands of the Masai Mara, renowned for its huge herds of game and large number of predators.

Days 1/2 Samburu
Early departure by road for Samburu, home of the nomadic Samburu tribe. Enjoy 2 exciting days of gameviewing, searching for elephant, lion and leopard as well as endemic species such as Grevy’s zebra and reticulated gaffe. Accommodation at Samburu Shaba Game Lodge (Silver) or Elephant Bedroom Camp (Gold).

Day 3 Mt Kenya
Leaving Samburu, drive past small farms, fruit and coffee plantations enroute to Mt Kenya. Overnight at Mountain Lodge (or similar) overlooking a vast nursery of Montane Forests.

Day 4 Lake Nakuru
Descend into the Rift Valley’s Lake Nakuru, famous for its millions of pink flamingoes. The surrounding park supports many birds and animals, including waterbuck and the endangered white rhino. Afternoon game drive in the park.

Day 5 Masai Mara
Early departure by road to the Masai Mara, Kenya’s best known game park, renowned for its migrating herds of wildebeest and zebra which come between July and September. Resident game includes giraffe, elephant, crocodile, hippo and predators like black-maned lions, cheetah, leopard and hyena. Overnight Sarova Mara Tented Camp (Silver) or Tipilikwani Tented Camp (Gold).

Day 7 Return Nairobi
Morning game drive then depart for Nairobi. Tour ends.

Optional extra nights in the Mara

Price per person from: *
Silver $792
Gold $875

Additional nights in the Masai Mara are recommended and may be added to the sample safari shown here. If your time in Kenya is limited, why not opt for a fly-in safari to the Masai Mara? A selection of camps are featured on pages 113-117.

BEST OF KENYA & TANZANIA
If you would like to combine Kenya & Tanzania, then please check out our itinerary on page 121.
WINGS OVER KENYA
6 days/5 nights
From $4866 per person twin share*
Departs daily by air ex Nairobi

Price per person from*: Twin $3772
Premium* $3998
Superior* $3972

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.
*A Premium package not available from Apr-May due to camp closures.

INCLUSIONS
Transfers as specified, scheduled flights Nairobi/Samburu/ Mars/Nakuru, bed & breakfast accommodation in Nakuru (half board at Giraffe Manor), full board on safari, shared game drives by 4WD vehicle*, Flying Doctor membership, park fees and taxes.

Check-in at the hotel - Self assisted

Origins is one of the leading safari operators in East Africa. Founded in 1963 by the Turner family who have a long history and deep roots in Africa, their commitment to providing simply outstanding wildlife and cultural experiences is reflected in the unique and inspirational journeys that they create for their clients.

Origins’ guides are amongst the best in Kenya and an integral part of any Origins tour. They have profound knowledge of local fauna and flora. They also understand the needs of photographers, are skilled at spotting game and are sensitive to conservation issues.

The exciting fly-in safari featured on this page combines traditional Kenyan lodge accommodation in the best wildlife reserves with a high standard of guiding and authentic cultural encounters. Flights between destinations save you hours of road travel.

Origins operate a modern, well-appointed fleet of custom-built 4WD vehicles which have been specially designed for gameviewing and photography.

Maximise the time that you spend exploring Kenya’s beautiful game parks on this memorable fly-in safari to two of Kenya’s most popular parks - Samburu and the Masai Mara. Please be reminded that this tour can be tailored for any duration using a combination of air and/or road transport. You may also incorporate any of the charming safari camps we have featured on pages 108-117. Each lodge/camp operates its own game activities using its own guides and vehicles. For a more exclusive experience, we can arrange private game drives in your own vehicle accompanied by one of Origin’s own guides.

Day 1 Nairobi
Arrival transfer to your hotel.

Days 2/3 Samburu
Transfer to Wilson Airport for your flight to Samburu. Stay at a camp of your choice (see p108) and go on game drives in search of Kenya’s iconic big game, as well as endemic dry-adapted species such as Grevy’s zebra, Botta’s oryx, reticulated giraffe and gerenuk. As the animals tend to be fairly sensitive to conservation issues.

Masai Mara
Transfer by air to the Masai Mara, one of the world’s finest wildlife sanctuaries. Choose from the camps featured on p105 or any of the camps on pages 113-117. The Mara supports the largest diversity of species in Africa and hosts the famous wildebeest migration between Jul-Sep. We strongly recommend 2 nights or more in the Masai Mara.

Day 4/5 Masai Mara
Transfer by air to the Mara Mara, one of the world’s finest wildlife sanctuaries. Choose from the camps featured on p105 or any of the camps on pages 113-117. The Mara supports the largest diversity of species in Africa and hosts the famous wildebeest migration between Jul-Sep. We strongly recommend 2 nights or more in the Masai Mara.

Day 6 Return to Nairobi
Morning game drive before your flight back to Nairobi. Transfer to city hotel or airport on arrival, enjoying lunch on the way. Tour ends.

Origins’ guides have a great sense of humour – essential for Aussies on safari! They are skilled at spotting game and are also under thatch and open to the cool river breezes. Relax by the freeform pool between game drives.

Zachary Methu Mbuthia
Zachary Methu Mbuthia is from North Kinangop and is a Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association (KPSGA) Silver member. As a young man working for the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Zachary developed a very strong interest in the natural world. In 1991 he started the Lake Nakuru Bird Trackers Conservation Group, training many people in bird watching and environmental conservation. After completing a range of guiding courses with the Kenya Wildlife Service, Zachary worked freelance for a number of safari operators. Zachary joined Origins Safaris in 2005 as an expert in ornithology and is an accomplished all-round driver-guide.

Chase fly-in safaris
© Origins

MEET SOME OF ORIGINS’ GUIDES

Masai Mara
Mara Intrepids - Classic
Occupying prime waterfront position on the Talek River, Mara Intrepids has 30 well appointed ensuite tents. See also p114.

Mara Ngenche - Superior
Ideally positioned for migration viewing, this intimate tented camp has just 12 exclusive guest tents featuring African-inspired décor, ensuite bathrooms with freestanding bathtubs and private plunge pools. Activities include shared game drives and balloon safaris (additional cost). See also p114.

Governor’s II Moran Camp - Premium
Occupying one of the best locations for wildlife viewing in the Mara, luxurious II Moran Camp has just 10 romantic tented suites. See also p113.

Sample fly-in safaris
© Origins

SELEMPO EDWIN LESOINE
Born in Kilgoris, a highland area to the north west of the Masai Mara Game Reserve, Selempto is one of Kenya’s top wildlife and ornithological guides with an incredible knowledge of East Africa’s birds and animal species. During his time as resident ornithologist at the Taita Discovery Centre in Taiti, he rediscovered the Taita falcon – a beautiful bird of prey thought to have been extinct in Kenya for over 60 years. Multi-talented, easy-going and a fascinating raconteur, Selempto is also an extremely keen watercolourist. Selempto is one of the few safari guides who has achieved Gold level membership to the Kenya Professional Guides Association (KPSGA).

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When our General Manager Anne-Marie Zambelli travelled to Kenya, she sang the praises of her Origins’ guides. Professional yet unfailingly personable, they are deeply knowledgeable about their country and sensitive to the delicate nature of their surroundings. Most importantly, the Origins’ guides have a great sense of humour – essential for Aussies on safari!

Two of Origins’ guides are featured on this page.

Sample fly-in safaris
© Origins

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NAIROBI

Kenya’s vibrant capital was established by the British in 1899 as a depot on the Mombasa/Uganda railway. Situated at 1795m above sea level it has a pleasant climate and has grown into a busy African city with approximately 3.5 million residents. The starting point for most East African safaris, Nairobi itself offers plenty to see and do, from colonial buildings to traditional and contemporary African culture, and even has a national park. Please note that traffic congestion is a big problem, so if you are spending just one night in Nairobi we recommend you choose a hotel close to the airport.

ACCOMMODATION

Prices per person from:  
Giraffe Manor (Superior Rm)  $1413 $2221  
Hemingways (Deluxe Rm)  $614 $791  
House of White (Standard Rm)  $542 $726  
Fairmont The Norfolk (Fernree Rm)  $307 $522  
Sarova Stanley (Deluxe Rm)  $256 $414  
The Boma Hotel (Superior Rm)  $225 $358  
Crowned Plaza Nairobi (Standard Rm)  $316 $558  
Ela Hotel (Superior Rm)  $215 $369  
Tamarind Tree Hotel (Deluxe Rm)  $184 $308

Prices are per person in low season on bed and breakfast basis only (except Giraffe Manor - full board & local government taxes) inclusive of government taxes.

Giraffe Manor

Built in 1923 in the style of a Scottish hunting lodge, Giraffe Manor is located in the affluent Nairobi suburb of Karen. Its 12 individually decorated ensuite guestrooms have four-poster beds and antique furniture. The grounds are a sanctuary for the endangered Rothschild’s giraffe, who sometimes join guests at the breakfast table through the windows. (Closed 14 Apr-10 May 2020) Note: this hotel is very popular so to avoid disappointment, please book early.

“We have travelled all around the world over the past 35 years and we have to say that Giraffe Manor was really one, if not the best experience/places we have stayed at. You have to experience it to believe it. Just magic... and giraffes really do put their heads through the windows and demand to be fed!! The Scottish mansion is absolutely beautiful - great meals, wonderful staff - they make everyone feel welcome, not pretentious at all. A side trip to the elephant orphanage is a must.”

Caroline & Peter Barber

FAIRMONT THE NORFOLK HOTEL

This landmark hotel has been the starting point for many safaris since 1904. The 170 rooms and suites are beautifully appointed with flat-screen TVs and internet access. The hotel has a day spa, gym, pool, 4 restaurants and a bar.

CROWNE PLAZA NAIROBI

The Crowne Plaza offers 206 superbly appointed rooms decorated in contemporary style. It is located on a quiet street in Nairobi’s leading financial district. The hotel features four restaurants, a bar, pool and gym.

TAMARIND TREE HOTEL

Located just 5km to the southeast of Nairobi the hotel offers easy access to all parts of the city. The hotel features 160 rooms, an onsite restaurant, lounge and bars while the world-renowned Camarrie restaurant is just a stone’s throw away.

Hemingways

This boutique hotel is situated in the quiet, exclusive suburb of Karen, 18km from Nairobi city centre. It features 43 luxurious suites and 2 lavish presidential penthouses, all with uninterrupted views of the Fising Hills. The hotel has an onsite luxury spa, a fitness centre, pool and day spa as well as rooms come with personal butlers.

HOUSE OF WAINE

In leafy Karen, this elegant boutique hotel offers exceptional service and contemporary style. The 11 individual guestrooms are spacious, and feature beautiful marble bathrooms. Hotel amenities include a dining room serving both international and Kenyan cuisine, lounge, bar, 2.5 acres of tranquil gardens and heated swimming pool.

SAROVA STANLEY

Hunting celebrities since 1903, The Sarova Stanley is located in the heart of Nairobi. Its 212 comfortable rooms have air conditioning, minibars and room service. This historic hotel is also home to a pool, gym and the legendary Thom Tree Cafe.

EKA HOTEL

Located on Mombasa Road, this modern city hotel offers 167 guestrooms, two restaurants, a bar, outdoor pool, gym and gardens. Nairobi National Park and the Karen Blixen Museum are both conveniently close by.

THE BOMA HOTEL

Close to Nairobi National Park and both of the city’s airports, this elegant hotel offers guests a variety of comfortable rooms and suites, with access to an outdoor pool, a day spa, international restaurant and terrace bar.

OPTIONAL NAIROBI TOURS

Depart daily from Nairobi All tours minimum 2 passengers.

Full Day
daily ex Nairobi Hotels

Prices per person from (Min 2)  
Twin $689  
Single $969

INCLUSIONS

Transport from/to hotel, tour as indicated.

Karen Blixen Museum & Giraffe Centre

Visit the Karen Blixen Museum, originally the home of Danish author Karen Blixen who wrote “Out of Africa”. Continue to the Giraffe Centre and meet some endangered Rothschild’s giraffe.

Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Animal Orphanage

Open for just one hour a day from 11.00am to 12.00pm, this famous animal shelter gives you a rare opportunity to view orphaned baby elephants. Each elephant here has its own keeper, who will stay with the infant until it is re-introduced into the wild.

Lake Nakuru National Park

This full day excursion takes you to Lake Nakuru National Park. The park is a haven for waterbirds and is home to 56 mammal species, including rhinos. Lunch at Lake Nakuru Lodge.

INCLUSIONS

Return transfers from your hotel, services of a tour guide and lunch. The majority of the tour cost goes directly to humanitarian work suitable for all ages.

Examples of programs which they operate - and that you can visit - include a local school, a soup kitchen for needy toddlers, a traditional Masai village, rural livestock farms run by grandmothers and a women’s empowerment facility. Regardless of which one you choose to visit, you’ll be able to meet directly with the people whose lives are improved by One Horizon, whether through education, food or micro-finance. You’ll also be able to roll up your sleeves and help if you wish! Tours are a full day duration, beginning at 0900 and concluding at around 1700. Prices include return air-conditioned hotel transfers, a light lunch and unlimited tea, coffee, bottled water and fruit.

Please contact us for further details.
LEWA & LAIKIPIA
3 days/2 nights
Departs daily by air ex Nairobi
Extra nights available at all camps

The unsurpassable beauty of the Lewa and Laikipia concessions is owed to the tireless conservation efforts by both the landowners and users. Lewa was the last bastion of Kenya’s black rhino and white rhinos in the 1980s and today, these populations thrive alongside other plentiful big game. Situated in Kenya’s remote northern frontier, Laikipia’s wildlife is equally prolific, thriving in the sanctuary’s open grasslands, alpine moorland and rocky escarpments.

On this page we feature two properties located in Laikipia, and one in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. These lodges can easily be included as part of a longer Kenya itinerary (see pages 103-105).

INCLUSIONS FOR ALL LODGES ON THIS PAGE
Nairobi/Wilson Airport return transfers, scheduled flights Nairobi to Lewa/Laikipia return, full board including local drinks & house wine (premium drinks excluded) shared game drives* by 4WD vehicle, flying doctors membership, park fees & taxes. Luggage limit: 15kg.

*Private vehicle and guide can be arranged (additional cost).

KICHECHE LAIKIPIA – LAIKIPIA
3 days/2 nights from $3124 per person twin share*

This luxurious 6-tent eco-camp is located at the base of Mt Kenya in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, overlooking a watershed with an abundance of wildlife. Each tent has its own ensuite bathroom and private deck. A family tent which sleeps 4 is also available. Activities centre around game drives; however, lion tracking and visits to a chimpanzee sanctuary or white rhino enclosure (extra cost) can easily be arranged.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.

SASAAAB
3 days/2 nights from $4300 per person twin share*

This lavish Moroccan-inspired camp comprises just 9 guest tents (including 1 family unit) featuring enormous open-air bathrooms and personal plunge pools. Meals are served in a soul-style mess tent or beneath the stars. Activities include game drives, camel-back safaris and fly camping, with a real highlight being interactions with the local Samburu community who still live in their colourful traditional dress. The area is the tribal homeland of the semi-nomadic Samburu people who can often be seen in their colourful traditional dress.

Singles on request.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.

LEWA SAFARI CAMP – LEWA
3 days/2 nights from $2797 per person twin share*

This luxury camp offers no expense on comfort – all its 13 tented rooms (including 2 family units) are equipped with running hot and cold water, flush toilets and access to a pool. Wildlife density is high thanks to the camp’s conservation efforts, and guests can search for species including the rare Grevy’s Zebra on game drives and guided walks. Children welcome.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.
LAKE NAKURU (& LAKES NAIVASHA AND ELMENTEITA)

Lodges
Departs daily by air ex Nairobi
Prices for all lodges are by request.

Africa's Rift Valley lakes are one of the most scenic and iconic regions on the continent. A highlight of the area is a day trip to Lake Nakuru National Park home to incredible birdlife. The park is a sanctuary for both black and white rhino as well as a plethora of big-game species including zebra, buffalo, leopard and Rothschild's giraffe. Lake Bogoria is another fascinating day trip, as its alkaline waters attract huge flocks of flamingos. We recommend a 2 or 3 night stay at any of the properties featured, allowing you to explore both lakes. These lodges are accessed by road, or scheduled flights from Nairobi, and are best included as part of a longer Kenya itinerary (see p103) taking in other famous areas such as the Masai Mara.

Flocks of flamingos. We recommend a 2 or 3 night stay at any of the properties featured, allowing you to explore both lakes.

OL DONYO LODGE – CHYULU HILLS

Set in the beautiful Chyulu Hills with views of Mt Kilimanjaro, the Ruhija & Chaisse of Donyo Lodge has 7 luxurious suites with rear beds and private pools. Activities include game drives, bush picnics, horseback safaris, day trips to Amboseli National Park, and Masaai village visits. Big game thrives here thanks to Donyo Lodge’s involvement in community and wildlife projects. Children 5+.

*Prices are based on two people sharing, singles on request.

MBWEHA CAMP – LAKE NAIVASHA

Set within the 6,400 acre private Conservancy that borders Lake Naivasha National Park, charming Mbweha Camp offers stunning mountain views. The 10 stone-and-thatch guest cottages nestled beneath shade trees, each fitted with a canopy bed and private verandahs. Being situated outside a national park, Mbweha Camp offers its guests the opportunity to enjoy bushwalks, day-and-night game drives, mountain biking and horseback riding. Visits to Lake Bogoria and the Membeso Crater (one of the large calderas in the world) are also possible. Children welcome.

MBWEHA CAMP – LAKE NAIVASHA

Lolini House – Lake Naivasha

Experience the Kenya of old at this historic farmstead on the scenic shores of Lake Naivasha. Up to 18 guests are accommodated in the main house or in lovely thatched cottages which feature beautiful views of a dormant volcano - Mount Longonot. Meals are savoured in the colonial-era dining room or outdoors. Activities include game drives, nature walks, birdwatching, boat rides on the lake (subject to water levels), sundowner drinks and full day trips to Lake Nakuru National Park. There is also a stunning infinity pool. Children welcome.

SEVERIN SAFARI CAMP – TSAVO WEST

3 days/2 nights from $2496 per person twin share*

Close to popular ThoMs Springs in Kenya’s vast Tsavo West National Park, Severin is perfectly positioned for excellent wildlife viewing. The camp has 27 spacious guest tents and suites with private bathrooms and services. Relax in the open-air bar, lounge and restaurant or swim in the large outdoor pool. Guided game drives and bush picnics are offered. Children welcome.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.

AMBOSELI, CHYULU & TSAVO

3 days/2 nights from $3496 per person twin share*

A day trip to Lake Nakuru National Park, famed for its beauty, wildlife and huge elephant herds. In this area we feature two exclusive lodges, Tortilis and Ol Donyo Lodge, which are situated in private conservancies adjoining the reserve enabling safaris to be undertaken in open 4WD vehicles, on foot and on horseback. A little further east is Tsavo West National Park, part of the untouched wilderness of Tsavo, Kenya’s largest park. In Tsavo West we feature Severin Safari Camp, which offers an authentic safari experience far from busy tourist trails.

INCLUSIONS FOR ALL LODGES ON THIS PAGE

Nairobi/Harare return flights, scheduled flights Nairobi to Amboseli/Chyulu/Tortilis return, full board including local drinks & house wines (premium drinks excluded, all beverages excluded at Severin), shared game drives* by 4WD vehicle, Flying Doctor service, Nairobi/Wilson airport return transfers, scheduled flights Nairobi to Amboseli/Chyulu/Tortilis return, full board including local drinks & house wines (premium drinks excluded, all beverages excluded at Severin), shared game drives* by 4WD vehicle, Flying Doctor service, Nairobi/Wilson airport return transfers. Priced at the foot of Mt Kilimanjaro is Amboseli National Park, famed for its beauty, wildlife and huge elephant herds. In this area we feature two exclusive lodges, Tortilis and Ol Donyo Lodge, which are situated in private conservancies adjoining the reserve enabling safaris to be undertaken in open 4WD vehicles, on foot and on horseback.

AMBOSELI, CHYULU & TSAVO FLY-IN LODGES • KENYA

This award-winning camp puts great emphasis on service and comfort without compromising the delicate environment of Amboseli’s plains. Comprising 17 thatched en-suite tents (including 1 family unit) built with natural materials, guests enjoy private verandahs and sweeping views of iconic Mt Kilimanjaro. Activities include game drives, tracking Amboseli’s famed elephant herds through the 30,000 acre conservancy. Children welcome.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.

SEVERIN SAFARI CAMP – TSAVO WEST

3 days/2 nights from $2811 per person twin share*

In the open-air bar, lounge and restaurant or swim in the large outdoor pool. Guided game drives and bush picnics are offered. Children welcome.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.

AMBOSELI, CHYULU & TSAVO FLY-IN LODGES • KENYA

This award-winning camp puts great emphasis on service and comfort without compromising the delicate environment of Amboseli’s plains. Comprising 17 thatched en-suite tents (including 1 family unit) built with natural materials, guests enjoy private verandahs and sweeping views of iconic Mt Kilimanjaro. Activities include game drives, tracking Amboseli’s famed elephant herds through the 30,000 acre conservancy. Children welcome.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.
MASAI MARA

Meaning “spotted” in the local Maa language of the Masai, the rolling plains of this beautiful game reserve are dappled by sun and shadows, and dotted with distinctive acacia trees. As part of the Serengeti ecosystem, the Masai Mara plays host to one of earth’s greatest wildlife spectacles. Every year between July and October two million western white-bearded wildebeest, zebra and Thomson’s gazelles migrate here from Tanzania’s Serengeti, searching for water and grass. As they cross and re-cross the Mara River they are preyed upon by hundreds of crocodiles. Hundreds also drown in its turbulent waters. The Mara is magnificent at any time of year. It has plenty of resident game, including graceful herds of giraffe, topi, eland and elephant as well as all manner of predators. Leopards thrive in the riverine forests while the grasslands are the perfect habitat for cheetah. The park also has one of the highest lion populations in Africa. As a result, the Mara has been the inspiration for many famous wildlife photographers and the focus of successful documentaries such as the BBC’s Big Cat Diary. Created in 1948 the Masai Mara National Reserve stretches 1,500km² from the Tanzanian border in the south to the Siria Escarpment in the west, encompassing Masai group ranches to the north and east. Protected wildlife conservancies within these vast Masai areas also form part of the Greater Mara Ecosystem and are the location of many excellent lodges and tented camps. Any Kenyan itinerary should include the Masai Mara and we recommend a minimum 3 night stay, and even up to 7-8 nights for wildlife enthusiasts.

MASAI MARA FLY-IN LODGES

MASAI MARA
3 days/2 nights
Departs daily by air ex Nairobi
Extra nights available at all camps

The Masai Mara’s great golden plains play host to the millions of wildebeest and zebra that migrate from the Serengeti between July and October every year. Gameviewing throughout these months is exceptional, however, as the Mara is home year-round to large numbers of lion, cheetah, hyena, vulture and many more animals, visitors will find safaris extraordinary regardless of when they travel. Hot air balloon flights are a signature activity in the Masai Mara and can be booked in advance. Featured here and on the next 4 pages are some of the Mara’s best safari camps, which can easily be combined with other areas of Kenya (see pages 108-111).

INCLUSIONS FOR ALL LODGES ON PAGES 113-117

Nairobi/Wilson airports return transfers, scheduled flights Nairobi/Mara return, full board accommodation including local drinks & house wine unless noted (premium drinks excluded), all beverages excluded at Governor’s & Little Governor’s and at Tipilikwani & Mara Intrepids on non-inclusive basis by 4WD vehicle, Flying Doctor membership, park fees & taxes, laundry, luggage (max. 15kg).

*Prices based on two people sharing, single supplement available.

GOVERNORS’ CAMPS, MAIN & LITTLE
3 days/2 nights from $2480 per person twin share*

Occupying one of the Masai Mara’s best locations for wildlife and scenery, Governors’ Camp and Little Governors’ Camp nestle in beautiful forest along the winding Mara River. Governors’ Camp, the original, is the largest with 37 ensuite tents set around a waterhole. Both offer 4WD game drives, guided walks, Masai cultural visits and ballooning. Children welcome.

Price per person from:

Government’s Camp $2480
Little Governors’ $2347

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.

GOVERNORS’ IL MORAN & PRIVATE CAMPS
3 days/2 nights from $2709 per person twin share*

Il Moran is the most luxurious camp in the award-winning Governors’ Camp Collection containing 10 romantic tents with king size beds hewn from fallen trees. Children 8+ welcome. Available for exclusive use.

Governors’ Private Camp offers accommodation for up to 16 people in spacious ensuite tents. This camp accepts children of all ages and has its own balconies and guides. Both properties offer game drives, cultural activities and ballooning safaris.

Price per person from:

$2709

*Prices based on two people sharing, singles on request.

SALA’S CAMP
3 days/2 nights from $4216 per person twin share*

One of the first camps in the Mara to see the annual wildebeest migration, Sala’s Camp also boast great gameviewing all year round being so close to the confluence of two major rivers. Guests are accommodated in 7 beautiful tents. Enjoy incredible game drives, extraordinary bird-watching and the opportunity to hot air balloon over the plains. At day’s end, expect sundowners by the campfire, delectable dinners and indulgent piping hot showers. Children welcome.

Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.
**KENYA • MASAI MARA FLY-IN LODGES**

**MARA INTREPIDs & MARA EXPLORER**

3 days/2 nights from $2027 per person twin share

Operated by Heritage Hotels, the Mara Intrepids and Mara Explorer are two exclusive camps which occupy prime waterfront positions along the Talek River in the heart of the Masai Mara. Intrepids has just 10 lovely ensuite tents, a lounge area, bar and swimming pool. Explorer is even more intimate, with just 10 secluded tents featuring romantic open-air claw-footed bathtubs. All ages welcome at Mara Intrepids. Mara Explorer: Children: 12+

Prices per person from:

- Mara Intrepids: $2027
- Mara Explorer: $3110

*Prices based on two people sharing, singles on request.

For inclusions see p113. *Excluded: drinks.

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**TIPILIKWANI CAMP**

3 days/2 nights from $2357 per person twin share

Set on the banks of the Talek River overlooking the Mara’s plains, permanent Tipilikwani Camp has 20 well-appointed riverfront tents whose decor is inspired by the warm, vibrant colours favoured by traditional Masai. Meals at this welcoming property can be enjoyed al fresco by the campfire or in the open-sided dining and lounge areas which feature stunning views. Activities include hot-air ballooning safaris (additional cost), day and night game drives, guided walks, bush dining and cultural visits. Children welcome.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.

For inclusions see p113. *Excluded: drinks.

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**MARA NGENCHE TENTED CAMP**

3 days/2 nights from $3355 per person twin share

Ideally positioned for migration viewing, this intimate tented camp is nestled in forest near the confluence of the Talek and Mara rivers. The 12 spacious guest tents feature African-inspired decor, inviting four-poster beds, ensuite bathrooms with hot/cold running water, freestanding bathtubs and open-air showers as well as private plunge pools. Activities include shared game drives and balloon safaris (additional cost). Children welcome.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.

For inclusions see p113. *Excluded: drinks.

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**MARA PLAINS CAMP**

3 days/2 nights from $4348 per person twin share

No detail has been overlooked at magnificent Mara Plains Camp, from the view of the horizon interrupted only by a single flat-topped acacia tree on arrival, to the rich leather, copper and brass that adorns each of the 7 lavish guest suites - a nod to Kenya’s colonial past. Enjoy unbridled access to 100,000 exclusive acres of big game country bordering the famous Masai Mara. Game drives are in open 4WD vehicles. Optional local village visits and hot air ballooning. Children 8+.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.

For inclusions see p113. *Excluded: drinks.

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**MARA EXPEDITION CAMP**

3 days/2 nights from $3299 per person twin share

Seasonal Mara Expedition Camp is where the romance of early explorer travel meets intense wildlife action. Here you’ll find 5 handsome ensuite tents decorated with campaign chests and hurricane lanterns. Set amidst thick riverine forest on the banks of the Ntiakitiak River, the camp is situated within prime leopard viewing territory, whilst the annual wildebeest and zebra migration passes literally right in front of your tent. Children 8+ welcome.

*Price based on two people sharing, singles on request.

For inclusions see p113. *Excluded: drinks.
KICHECHE MARA CAMPS
3 days/2 nights from $3190 per person twin share

Kicheche has 3 classic tented camps in three prolific conservancies throughout the Mara. Intimate Kicheche Bush Camp is a 6-tent luxury eco-camp. Kicheche Mara Camp has 8 classic tents overlooking a stream and Kicheche Valley is the most exclusive comprising 6 tents set on platforms amongst trees and rocky outcrops. Children welcome. Kicheche also have a ‘fly-camp’ available, where you can spend a night out in the wilderness under the stars. All offer 4WD game drives and guided walks, whilst Kicheche Valley also offers night drives and Masai cultural visits. Closed April/May.

Price per person from*  
Bush Camp $3537  
Valley Camp $3236  
Mara Camp $3170
*Prices based on two people sharing, singles on request. For inclusions see p113.

REKERO & NABOISHO CAMPS
3 days/2 nights from $2651 per person twin share

Overlooking the Talek River close to a popular wildlife crossing point, Rekero Camp is set in one of the most game-rich areas of the Mara. The 9 tents, with ensuite bathrooms and verandah, nestle under huge trees. Naboisho Camp is situated inside the 50,000 acre Naboisho Conservancy, a groundbreaking conservation initiative. This camp offers 9 generous tents set with private verandas furnished with day-beds. Both camps offer game drives, walks and cultural visits. Rekero closed April/May and Naboisho closed Apr.

Price per person from*  
Twin  
Rekero Camp $3675  
Naboisho Camp $3261
*Prices based on two people sharing, singles on request. For inclusions see p113.

ELEWANA SAND RIVER
3 days/2 nights from $3231 per person twin share

This nostalgic 1920s-style camp is located on the Sand River, from which it takes its name. This is a region of exceptional gameviewing, with abundant big cats such as leopard, cheetah and lion. The annual wildebeest and zebra migration, when it arrives, is merely the icing on the cake. Accommodation is provided in 14 tents (including 1 family unit) spread across two separate but adjoining wings. Each wing possesses its own dining and lounge areas so guests enjoy an enhanced sense of exclusivity and privacy. Aside from game drives, hot air ballooning is also available (extra cost), walks and cultural safaris are all available plus the option to explore the famed Mara Triangle, just 10 minutes’ drive away.

Price per person from*  
Twin  
Bush Camp $3442
*Prices based on two people sharing, singles on request. For inclusions see p113.

ANGAMA MARA
3 days/2 nights from $5042 per person twin share

Perched on a dramatic escarpment, Angama Mara North & South boast unbeatable views over the Mara’s plains. Each camp features 16 sublime suites that have glass frontages to make the most of the glorious panoramas, the other three sides are canvas, with meshed sliding doors to let in the sounds of wild nature. Set between the two camps is a central piont containing a pool, gym and photography studio, whilst there are two separate dining/lounge areas. Hot air ballooning (extra cost) and cultural tours are all available, plus the option to explore the famed Mara Triangle, just 10 minutes’ drive away.

Price per person from*  
Angama Mara $5042
*Prices based on two people sharing, singles on request. For inclusions see p113.

KICHEWA TEMBO & BATELEUR CAMPS
3 days/2 nights from $2236 per person twin share

Bateleur Camp has sweeping views of the Mara, and is split across two sites, each featuring 9 tented suites. Fan-cooled and opulent, all Bateleur tented suites come with private butler service, whilst the lodge has a beautiful infinity pool and thatched lounge/dining area. Laid out along the Sabaringo River, nearby Kicwha Tembo Tented Camp looks out onto the plains of the Masai Mara. Its 12 Classic and 28 Superior tents are contemporary in style and all have ensuite bathrooms. The main lodge houses a lounge, bar, dining room, massage room and swimming pool. Children of all ages welcome at both camps.

Price per person from*  
Twin  
Bateleur Camp $3442  
Kicheche Tembo Tented Camp $2236
*Prices based on two people sharing, singles on request. For inclusions see p113.