

# KICHECHE TOUR OPERATORS MANUAL



KICHECHE  
*camps*

FACTS AT A GLANCE	MARA CAMP	BUSH CAMP	VALLEY	LAIKIPIA
Conservancy	Mara North	Olare Motorogi	Mara Naboisho	Ol Pejeta
Airstrip - scheduled flights	Mara North	Olare Orok	Ol Seki Naboisho	Nanyuki
- transfer time	20 mins	15 mins	10 mins	60 mins
Airstrip - charter flights	As above	As above	As above	Kamok
- transfer time				20 mins
<b>GPS coordinates</b>	<b>1°12'55.80"S 35°9'52.37"E</b>	<b>1°21'33.38"S 35°12'49.29"E</b>	<b>1°24'47.43"S 35°22'43.85"E</b>	<b>0°01'655N 036°52'082E</b>
Ecotourism Rating	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold
Number of guests tents	8	6	6	6
Children allowed	yes	yes	yes	yes
Quad / family room (4 pax)	yes	no	yes	yes
Baby cot / Nanny	no	no	no	no
Mosquito proof tents	yes	yes	yes	yes
Flush toilets	yes	yes	yes	yes
Running Water	cold only	cold only	hot & cold	hot & cold
Shower type	fixed	Safari-bucket	fixed	fixed
Hair dryer	no	no	no	no
Souvenir shop	yes	yes	yes	yes
Safe Facility manager's office	yes	yes	yes	yes
Room safe	no	no	no	no
Swimming pool	no	no	no	no
Power 24h	yes	yes	yes	yes
Charging Facilities	Lounge	Lounge	Tent	Lounge
Telephone signal	weak	weak	weak	weak
Wi-Fi (can be limited)	Yes	Yes	yes	yes
<b>Credit cards Visa / MasterCard / American Express</b>				
<b>Activities –</b>	included	included	Included *	included *
Day game drives				
Night game drives	No	No	Included *	included *
Guided walks (12+ yrs)	included	included	Included *	included *
Others – Chimp visit, canoeing, lion tracking & mtn biking	no	no	no	included
Bush breakfasts	no	no	included	no
Picnics Sundowner	included	included	included	included
drinks Wellness	included	included	Included	included *
treatment	no	no	yes	no
Village visit (extra charge)	yes	yes	yes	no
Hot Air ballooning (extra charge)	yes	yes	yes	no

(\*) Extra charge for clients booked on Full Board



## KICHECHE CAMPS IN THE MAASAI MARA

**Kicheche Mara Camp:** [www.kicheche.com/camps-mara](http://www.kicheche.com/camps-mara)

**Mara North Conservancy**  
**Airstrip:** Mara North airstrip

The original Kicheche camp, located in a magnificent site in Acacia Valley, is incredibly popular with guests. The camp has eight tents ensuring a personalized experience. The game viewing is just fantastic and starts right from the camp.

**Kicheche Bush Camp:** [www.kicheche.com/camps-bush](http://www.kicheche.com/camps-bush)

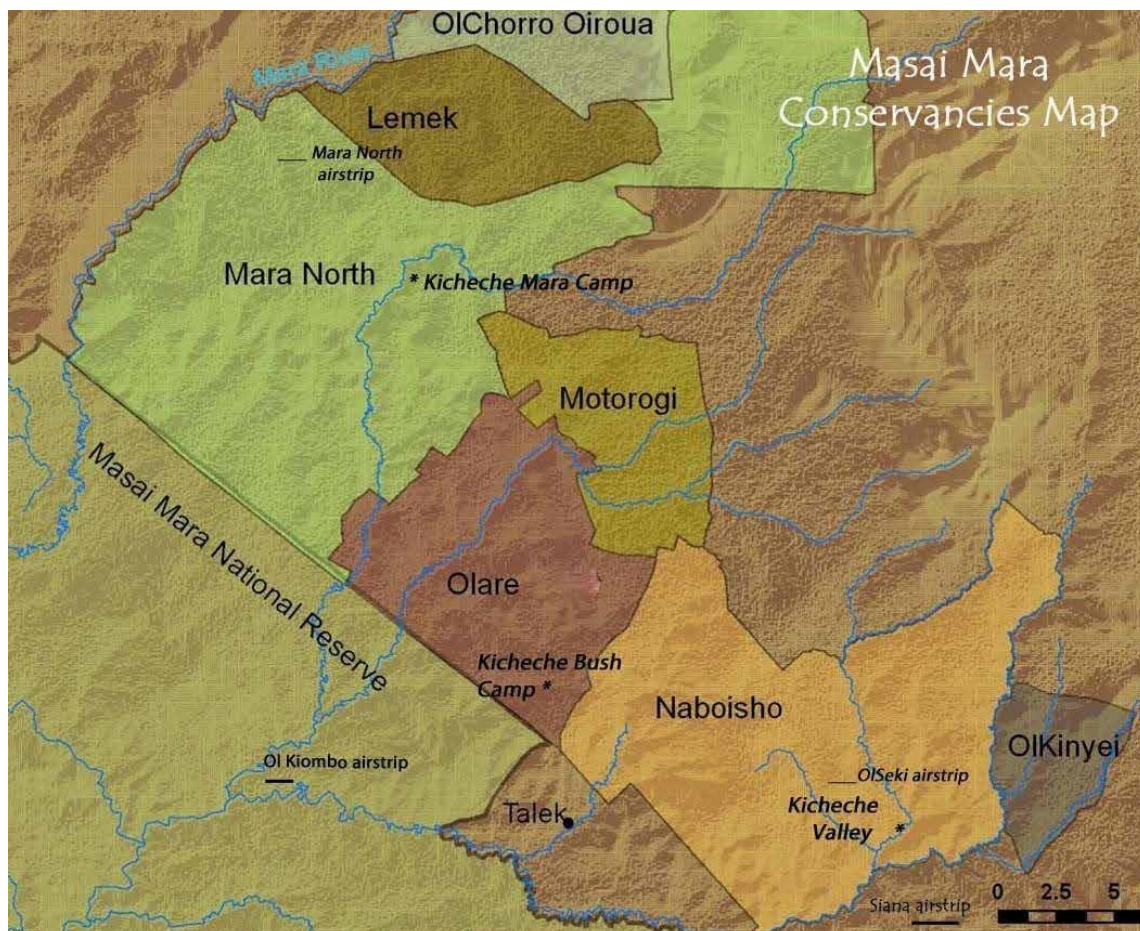
**Olare Motorogi Conservancy**  
**Airstrip:** Olare Orok Airstrip

Located an hour south of Mara Camp in the premium Olare Motorogi Conservancy, adjacent to the Reserve, and restricted to guests of affiliated camps. With only six stylish tents, the personal attention at camp and exclusivity of the Conservancy offer a winning combination.

**Kicheche Valley Camp:** [www.kicheche.com/camps-naboisho](http://www.kicheche.com/camps-naboisho)

**Mara Naboisho Conservancy**  
**Airstrip:** Ol Seki airstrip

Our newest and most luxurious Kicheche camp consists of six tents, with optimum personal touch and great cuisine. The Conservancy is flourishing with a fantastic array of wildlife on offer and opens up a whole new area of the Mara to explore whilst game driving or walking.

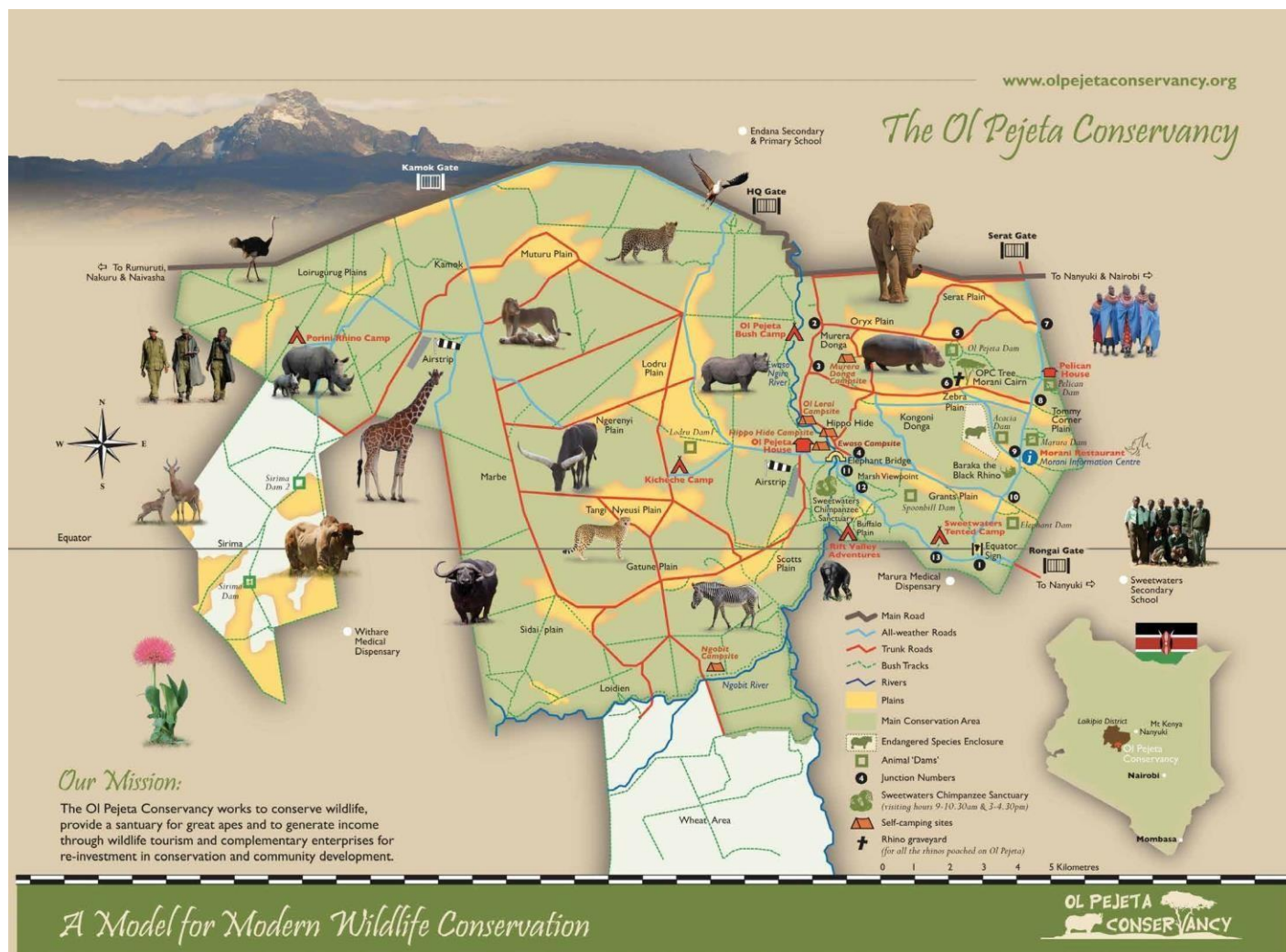


**Kicheche Laikipia Camp:** [www.kicheche.com/camps-laikipia](http://www.kicheche.com/camps-laikipia)

## **Ol Pejeta Conservancy**

**Airstrip: Nanyuki Airstrip & Ol Pejeta Kamok**

Located in central Kenya in East Africa's largest black rhino sanctuary the camp receives fantastic reviews. Its six luxurious tents are located around a waterhole and game drives and walks take place in the wilderness zone of the Conservancy.



## **FACILITIES COMMON TO ALL KICHECHE CAMPS**

### **Lounge Tent**

Our spacious lounge tent, with its comfortable local furnishings and informative collection of reference books, is a delightful place to relax between game drives or other activities.

### **Meals and Drinks**

All meals and drinks are inclusive in your stay and taken al-fresco in a clearing overlooking the plains or, in the event of bad weather, in the spacious dining tent. The cuisine is Western/European with occasional African dishes and hygiene standards are high. We can cater for special dietary requirements however please notify us in advance. Mineral water is provided in each tent every day.

### **Laundry**

Included in the rate is a daily laundry service. Please note this is a bush laundry that cannot cope with delicate items of clothing.



## **Power & Lighting**

There is no mains power however we do supply 24-hour low wattage power for lighting through a solar inverter system. Camera and Video batteries can also be charged on this system. The inverter system is backed up with a generator.

## **Safety**

Safety is of paramount importance and therefore askaris (night-watchmen) patrol the camp at regular intervals after dark. Guests are advised to remain in their tent after dark, and will be escorted between their tent and the lounge/dining areas by a staff member. Each tent is equipped with a whistle to call for assistance in case of emergency.

Each vehicle is equipped with a radio for communications with camp and the camp is in contact with the Nairobi office on a daily basis. Flying Doctors' medical evacuation planes can be called in the event of an emergency.

## **Children**

We accept children but adults must be aware that our camps are not fenced and no additional facilities are available to occupy them outside our normal excursions. No baby equipment is provided.

## **PREPARATION**

### **Climate**

The long rains are from early April through to May, and the short rains in November. The coolest time of year is from Jun-Aug when temperatures are low in the morning hours.

Dry seasons offer more reliable road conditions though game viewing is excellent year round. Please bear in mind over the past few years the weather patterns in the Masai Mara, and Kenya in general, have changed and are somewhat unpredictable.

Generally speaking the Laikipia Plateau is much cooler than most people expect for a region on the equator, this is due to the altitude (1700-2000metres) over much of the area.

Kicheche Camps are closed in April & May.

### **Clothing**

It is advisable to have a warm jacket or jumper for cool mornings. During the day however it is usually quite warm. Generally the temperature is considerably lower in Laikipia than in the Maasai Mara therefore please pack WARM clothes if staying in Laikipia.

Natural safari colours are recommended especially if you are game walking, they are also ideal to conceal the African dust! Good walking shoes/ boots will be useful if you intend to walk. A sun hat, sunglasses, lotion, lip balm and skin moisturiser are important to counteract the sun, wind and dry conditions.

### **Health**

Kenya is a malaria zone therefore guests should consult their doctor about prophylactic measures before travelling. Guests should also be covered by comprehensive travel insurance.

### **Photography**

It is highly recommended to bring a camera with a zoom lens of at least 200mm for wildlife shots. A bean bag or jumper is useful to rest your camera on for shooting in low light (tripods are too cumbersome for use in a vehicle). We have several locally made bean bags at the camp however, if you wish to come bring your own it can be filled at camp. Although there is a small supply of film available at camp it is recommended to bring your own. Don't forget to bring a spare camera battery. Recharging facilities are available for digital cameras and videos (230V 50Hz). Another important item to bring is a pair of binoculars. It is worth buying a pair if you unable to borrow. Small compact binoculars are fine and handy to carry around however a larger (e.g. 7x50) pair will be superior in the low light conditions in the morning and evening when most game drives take place. Always ask permission before taking photographs of people.

## Communications

There is a variable mobile signal at our camps however usage is restricted in the camp public areas and on game drives. There is an unreliable e-mail connection at camp therefore all communications should be copied to the Nairobi office ([sales@kicheche.com](mailto:sales@kicheche.com)). In the event of an emergency the camp numbers are listed below however they are not reliable connections therefore we recommend you contact the Nairobi Duty mobile phones as per below. Kenya is GMT +3 hours and does not have summertime/daylight savings.

## ACTIVITIES

### Daily Routine

Guests are woken with tea, coffee or hot chocolate & biscuits brought to their tent. An early morning game drive sets off at sunrise and returns to the camp late morning. Breakfast is a leisurely affair taken outside in the morning sunlight. Lunch is also served al-fresco in the shade of an olive tree. During the heat of the day, relax and appreciate the silence, punctuated only by birdcalls. Alternatively, utilise our reference library in the lounge tent, which has an excellent selection of books. An afternoon game drive departs around 16h00 after tea and returns after sundowners. Freshen up before joining other guests around the campfire for a pre-dinner drink. Dinner is served by candlelight al-fresco or in the dining tent. Take a nightcap by the fire before retiring. Rigid daily schedules are not on our agenda, there are no hard and fast rules at Kicheche so guests can decide on the duration and frequency of their drives. Picnic breakfasts, lunches and sundowner drinks are popular options to include on game drives.

### Game Drives

Early morning and late afternoon are the most productive hours for game drives and our safari customised 4WD vehicles give everyone a perfect view. Watching wildlife at close range, but without encroaching on their space, is endlessly fascinating and our guides' instincts and experience provide superb photo opportunities of wild animals.

Game driving is available throughout the area and your program is arranged daily with your guide. Game-viewing drives are conducted by open-sided and open roofed customised 4WD Land Cruiser vehicles. Game drives are shared with other guests though exclusive use of a vehicle is available at an extra charge. Our vehicles are superbly designed for photographers, all our fleet is open-sided with open roofs. Cameras can be rested on the roof, with supplied beanbags, or on the armrests lower down, to which we can mount simple platforms for larger lenses. For complete flexibility it is recommended that you take a vehicle on an exclusive use basis (\$320 per day supplement).





### **Walking**

A different perspective is gained through escorted walks on the savannah. Our interpretive guides will point out the spoor of a leopard, the nest of a rare bird or signs of recent migration activity that would pass unnoticed by the eyes of strangers... Walks are included in our tariff.



### **Village visits**

Guests can visit one of the local Maasai villages to see first hand their way of life. A village guide or your Kicheche guide will give you an interpretive talk during your visit. There is sometimes dancing and traditional souvenirs are on sale. There is a charge of \$25 per person.

### **Community Projects**

Why not spend a few hours between game drives visiting our local community? Your guide can take you on a tour and show you how the Maasai community lives on the fringes of the Conservancy. See the projects we support and learn about the challenges facing a developing town in our region. Kicheche's Trust has been very active with the community in terms of education, health & family care, empowerment and the environment. Note - This is not a traditional village visit but a real life insight into how a traditional community is adapting to development.

### **Hot Air Ballooning**

This is a popular excursion in the Masai Mara – not available in Ol Pejeta. Balloons take off early each morning at sunrise and glide over the plains for approximately an hour before landing. Upon touchdown a champagne breakfast is set up before you. The excursion finishes with a game drive back to camp. Trips can be booked through your tour operator or with the balloon operator.

For Kicheche Mara, the local balloon operators are Governors Ballooning and Skyship

For Kicheche Valley, Hot Air Safaris

For Kicheche Bush Camp, Hot Air Safaris

### **Fly Camping**

Kicheche Camps offers escorted walking safaris with overnight stays in a fly-camp in the bush in the Maasai Mara. These excursions are led by one of Kicheche's senior guides and an armed ranger. It is an outstanding opportunity to see the Mara from a completely different perspective and also offers some welcome exercise whilst on safari.



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