

Kicheche Laikipia Camp

Fact sheet

Kicheche Laikipia Camp, located in a wilderness area of East Africa's largest Black Rhino Sanctuary, under the shadow of Mount Kenya, is composed of only six tents.

LOCATION

Kicheche Laikipia Camp is located in Ol Pejeta Conservancy and the six sumptuous tents are set around a large waterhole attracting wildlife.

GPS 0°01'655 N 036 52'082 E

Ol Pejeta Conservancy

The OlPejeta Conservancy lies on the equator at 6,000 feet above sea level with Mt Kenya as a stunning backdrop and is home to Kenya's largest population of Black Rhino, considerable numbers of elephant, cheetah, lion, leopard and plentiful plains game. It also hosts a number of rare Northern species like Grevys Zebra, Jackson's Hartebeest and Beisa Oryx. Kicheche Laikipia Camp is located in the Wilderness zone of the Conservancy and with only one bed per 1,500 acres this offers an incredibly private wildlife experience.

Access

By air : A scheduled 40 mins flight from Nairobi's Wilson Airport to **NANYUKI airstrip**. Flights depart at 0800, 0915 and 1020. Flights available to Samburu, Lewa and the Masai Mara.

Tropic Air charters are also based in Nanyuki and cover airstrips all over the country. If utilizing an air charter the nearby Ol Pejeta Airstrip (Kamok) can be used for arrivals or departures. The camp is a 60-minute game drive from Nanyuki airstrip.

Note : Luggage allowance 15kg per person only, in soft luggage bags. Excess luggage is charged at approx \$5 per kilo.

By road: 4 hours drive from Nairobi.

FACILITIES

Guests tents

The camp has just six luxurious tents nestled in on the edge of indigenous woodland overlooking a waterhole. The Camp is hosted by Louise Wood & Andrew Obaga who ensure guests have a wonderful stay at our bush hideaway. They, along with our experienced guides, will co-ordinate your game viewing activities during your stay. Water is supplied from a borehole and is therefore plentiful. Each guest tent has hot and cold running water and a wonderful shower to stand and luxuriate under either morning or evening. A family quad tent is available on request.

Lounge Tent

The camp communal area consists of a large interconnected lounge/ dining tent which has a fireplace in the cosy lounge section. A roomy tent with wonderful large stone fire places in both the dining and lounge sections for those cold winter evenings. It provides a warm evening environment but also opens up in the front to overlook the waterhole and surrounding bush. The relaxing lounge area has comfortable chairs with a selection of reference books and a small curio shop.

Meals and Drinks

Where possible we source all our vegetables and meat locally from the surrounding farms, in an area known worldwide for it's fertility. Breakfast and lunch are usually taken under the shade of spreading trees overlooking the waterhole and evening meals within the dining tent. Drinks are included and we have a fully stocked bar with a good range of wines and spirits. Picnic breakfasts and lunches are available on game driving excursions.

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.



All power in the camp is solar. Each tent has its own separate 12 volt solar lighting system providing 24 hour lighting. Refrigeration is DC powered and Power is supplied to the central areas in regular AC format. Therefore power for charging batteries is available 24 hours.

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 walkie talkie to call for assistance at night 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 camp is not fenced and no additional facilities are available to occupy them outside our normal excursions. No baby equipment is provided.

Souvenirs

There is a camp souvenir shop where one can purchase traditional souvenirs and there is also a small selection of clothing, maps and miscellaneous items.

Tipping

It is customary to tip your guide and camp staff however it is not compulsory and tips should only be given if you are satisfied with the service provided.

Payments at camp

We accept credit card payments (AMEX, VISA and MASTER CARD) or cash (EURO, USD, GBP and Kenya Shilling). There is a safety deposit box at camp where all valuables can be kept.

PREPARATION

Climate

The long rains are from early April through to May, and the short rains in November. The coolest time of year in Laikipia is December and January when temperatures are as low as 5 deg C in the morning hours. Our altitude makes for cold mornings and warm afternoons with temperature fluctuations of up to 25 deg C. Dry seasons offer more reliable road conditions although a network of all-weather roads guarantee game viewing is excellent year round. Please bear in mind over the past few years the weather patterns in Kenya in general, have changed and are somewhat unpredictable.

Kicheche Laikipia Camp is closed in April & May.

Clothing

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. Therefore it is advisable to bring a warm jacket or jumper, trousers and socks for cold mornings and chilly evenings. During the day however it can get quite warm. 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 camp however usage is restricted in the camp public areas and on game drives. There is an unreliable e-mail connection at camp laikipiacamp@kicheche.com therefore all communications should be copied to the Nairobi office (sales@kicheche.com). In the event of an emergency the camp number is +254727250212 but is not a reliable connection; therefore we recommend you contact

the Nairobi Duty mobile phones: +254 736 888 055 / +254 700 888 055. Kenya is GMT +3 hours and does not have summertime/daylight savings.

ACTIVITIES

Daily Routine

Guests are woken up in the morning with tea, coffee or hot chocolate & homemade biscuits brought to their tent. An early morning game drive sets off at sunrise and returns to camp late morning. Breakfast is a leisurely affair usually taken outside around the lounge area or as a picnic on the game drive. After lunch, sit under the shade of the evergreen Euclea trees in front of the dinning tent or relax on your tent veranda (or hammock) and enjoy the silence, only punctuated by birdcalls. Alternatively, utilize our reference books in the lounge area. An afternoon game drive departs after tea, i.e. around 4 pm and returns as darkness falls after enjoying sundowners on the plains. Freshen up and then join the other guests around the camp fire for pre-dinner drinks. Dinner is served by candle light either under the stars or in the dining tent. End the evening with a nightcap by the fire before retiring.

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 in open roofed customised 4WD Land Cruiser vehicles. They have large windows that can be opened for good viewing and photographic access or closed to keep out the cold and dust. 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 (with supplement). **Night Game Drives** which focus on nocturnal species not seen on regular day drives are also available.

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.

Lion Tracking

There is also a Lion Tracking program which monitors the lions of the area (some have been collared with transmitters). As part of the program we are able to track the lions with a hand held directional aerial and remit the data to the study centre. Prior booking is necessary.

Wildlife Educational Centre

interesting for both children and adults. No extra charge.

Chimpanzee Sanctuary

offers home to orphan chimps and is an excellent venue to observe the two families and learn about the perils facing chimpanzees in the wild. No extra charge.

Endangered species The enclosure can be visited at extra cost.

For further information, please contact:

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